

THE VENOUS INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO

Michael A. Vasquez, MD, FACS, RVT

TO ALL OF MY PATIENTS CONSIDERING THE VNUS CLOSURE PROCEDURE

I have been working diligently with all of the major insurance carriers to create a uniform policy of medical necessity for treatment of chronic venous insufficiency and varicose veins with the VNUS Closure Procedure. They have outlined the following criteria in ALL CIRCUMSTANCES:

•A trial of conservative, non-operative treatment for a minimum of three to six (3-6) months has failed. This would include mild exercise, periodic leg elevation, weight loss, compressive therapy, and avoidance of prolonged immobility.ö

They also require in most circumstances prior authorization. We have to supply for EACH individual person all the following: clinical documentation, consultation, Doppler results, letters of medical necessity, and evidence that patients have failed with conservative management.

As you might imagine, this makes scheduling the VNUS Closure Procedure extremely involved.

Please be aware that we have no control over this and have to meet the very strict guidelines in each and every individual circumstance. You may feel frustrated by the process, and I apologize in advance for that. Please know that we are doing everything possible to accommodate your needs and assure payment by your insurer by meeting these strict guidelines.

After being seen in the office, you will likely be given recommendations for conservative therapy which will, at the very least, consist of wearing stockings for a minimum 3-6 months. You will also need to complete a venous insufficiency Doppler study. We will send you a letter with the results of this test. Once you have worn compression hose for the 3-6 months please contact our office. If your symptoms persist, let the staff know if you wish to proceed with the procedure.

I am looking to make this as simple as possible for all involved. If you have any further questions you may contact our office or refer to our website (www.VenousInstitute.com). Be assured that I am personally involved this whole process with you, with my office staff, and with the medical directors of the insurance companies. Patience, cooperation, and communication will ease this transition time.

Once you have been scheduled for your procedure, we ask that you please **STICK TO THAT DATE**. Much coordination is involved in scheduling these surgeries and Dopplers and it is difficult to re-schedule. We do understand if there are circumstances beyond your control, but please be considerate knowing there are other people waiting to schedule the procedure as well. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Vasquez, MD

February 2008