



Birmingham Breast Care ♦ Susan B. Winchester, MD

800 St. Vincent's Drive ♦ North Tower Suite 640 ♦ Birmingham, AL 35205

(205) 930-0806 ♦ (205) 930-0906 - FAX



Dear Patient -

Over 25yrs. ago I felt a call to become a doctor. I was caring for women living on the streets of Atlanta, Georgia and saw that in caring for their physical need I was granted access to their heart. I desire to holistically care for women in physical need and in that process care for their whole person - mind, body, and spirit. God has granted me the privilege of becoming a doctor and now the privilege of being your doctor. Thank you for being here and trusting me. (Please see our website www.birminghambreastcare.com for further information as to our values)

Our practice is dedicated to delivering the most advanced and least invasive breast care utilizing state of the art methods. As we watch a shift in medical practice, with volume becoming a priority, the practice of medicine has been encumbered with regulation, massive paper work, and government imposed mandates. This change is very uncomfortable for me. My staff has to convert every piece of paper to an Electronic Medical Record and then figure out how we can all have access to that chart during your visit. This is only one example of the many ways government has imposed itself without permission from either you or me. The emphasis has become "documentation of quality care" and in so doing has made it extremely difficult to actually deliver that care. We are frankly overwhelmed with challenges on every front.

Insurance policies which comply with the dictates of the Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as "Obamacare") often provide coverage that is not needed with resultant high premiums and deductibles. Doctors have been pushed into a financial relationship with patients. This does not support a caring relationship between doctor and patient. Historically when insurance policies paid doctors, with only small manageable deductibles owed by the patient, physicians were in the position of just taking care of patients with no regard about payment. I am a doctor who does not want to have a conversation about money but rather just wants to bring all my powers and knowledge in delivering the best quality care in a timely fashion.

Doctors are leaving their practices in droves. Why? It's because they didn't enter Medicine as a "business" but as a profession. The present situation has pushed and pressured doctors to become something they are not and were never called to be. It's sad, full of frustration, and ultimately untenable. How do these changes in medicine affect you? Gradually there will be fewer doctors resulting in longer waits even to see a physician. Your choices will be limited. The level of your care will be dictated by your insurance policy. Ultimately the quality and timeliness of your care will be compromised. Medicine will have an exaggerated tier system. Those who can pay for the very best will get it and those that can't will be on a homogenous government run plan that will have all the above problems.

I have considered all of the above for the past few years. Birmingham Breast Care has never turned away a patient for lack of funds. We have helped our patients in every way imaginable down to recently buying a heating pad for one patient. We will continue to do all we can for everybody. We must continue in practice as this is our calling. Therefore, my Patient Liaison, Donna Newton will work with patients with deductibles that cannot be met. We are doing all we can to deter financial need from being a consideration.

So today we will do all we can to determine your situation. In so far as possible we try to give you an answer to all of your questions when seen. Our compassion is dictated by The One who called each of us to this practice. We give everyone all the time they need. Please help us help you and continue to Practice State of the Art breast care.

Susan B. Winchester, MD