**PATIENT AGREEMENT**

**FMA Direct, LLC**

This is an Agreement entered into on , 20 , between FMA Direct, a North Carolina Limited Liability Company (Clinic, Us or We), and (Patient or You).

**Background**

The Clinic is a direct pay primary care practice (DPC), which delivers primary care services through its Providers at 1531 North Aspen Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092. In exchange for certain fees, the CLINIC agrees to provide You with the Services described in this Agreement on the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement.

**Definitions**

**1. Patient**. In this Agreement, “Patient” means the persons for whom the Providers shall provide care, and who have signed this agreement or are listed on the document attached as Appendix B, which is a part of this agreement.

**2. Services**. In this Agreement, “Services”, means the collection of services, offered to you by Us in this Agreement. These Services are listed in Appendix A(1), which is attached and a part of this Agreement.

**Agreement**

**3. Term**. This Agreement will last for one year, starting on \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**4**.  **Renewal.** The Agreement will automatically renew each year on the anniversary date of the agreement, unless either party cancels the Agreementby giving 30 days written cancellation notice.

**5.** **Termination.** Regardless of anything written above, You always have the right to cancel this agreement. Either party can end this agreement at any time by giving the other party 30 days written notice.

**6. Payments and Refunds – Amount and Methods.** In exchange for the Services (see Appendix A(1)), You agree to pay Us, a monthly fee in the amount that appears in Appendix C, which is attached and is part of this Agreement.

a) This monthly fee is payable when you sign the Agreement, and is due no later than the first business day of each month thereafter.

b) The Parties agree that the required method of monthly payment shall be by automatic payment through a debit or credit card, or bank draft.

c) If this Agreement is cancelled by either party before the Agreement ends, We will review and settle your account as follows:

1. We will refund to You the unused portion of your fees on a per diem basis; or
2. If Value of the Services you received over the term of the Agreement exceeds the amount You paid in membership fees, You shall reimburse the CLINIC in an amount equal to the difference between the value of the services received and the amount You paid in membership fees over the term of the Agreement. The Parties agree that the value of the services is equal to the CLINIC’s usual and customary fee-for-service charges. A copy of these fees is available on request.

**7. Non-Participation in Insurance.** Your initials on this clause of the Agreement acknowledges the Patient’s understanding thatthe CLINIC does not participate in any health insurance or HMO plans or panels and cannot accept Medicare eligible patients. We make no representations that any fees that You pay under this Agreement are covered by your health insurance or other third party payment plans.It is the Patient’s responsibility to determine whether reimbursement is available from a *private, non-governmental* insurance plan and to submit any required billing. **\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

**8. WE CANNOT Accept Medicare Patients.** Your initials on this clause of the Agreement acknowledges the Patient’s understanding that at this time, Medicare Patients are not eligible to be treated by the CLINIC or its Providers, and Medicare cannot be billed for any services performed by the same. Therefore, Patient acknowledges that s/he is neither a Medicare beneficiary nor Medicare eligible.The Patient agrees that if s/he will become eligible during the term of this Agreement, s/he will notify the CLINIC within 60 days of becoming eligible and this agreement will be terminated upon Medicare eligibility. Any excess fees will be refunded to Patient, and the CLINIC will make every effort to provide the Patient with names and contacts for primary care alternatives. **\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

**9. This Is Not Health Insurance**. Your initials on this clause of the Agreement acknowledges Your understanding that this Agreement is not an insurance plan or a substitute for health insurance. You understand that this Agreement does not replace any existing or future health insurance or health plan coverage that You may carry. The Agreement does not include hospital services, or any services not personally provided by the CLINIC, or its employees. You acknowledge that the CLINIC has advised You to obtain or keep in full force, health insurance that will cover You for healthcare not personally delivered by the CLINIC, and for hospitalizations and catastrophic events. **\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)**

**10. Communications**. The Patient acknowledges that although CLINIC shall comply with HIPAA privacy requirements, communications with Providers using e-mail, facsimile, video chat, cell phone, texting, and other forms of electronic communication can never be absolutely guaranteed to be secure or confidential methods of communications. As such, **Patient expressly waives the Providers’ obligation to guarantee confidentiality with respect to the above means of communication.** Patient further acknowledges that all such communications may become a part of the medical record.

By providing an e-mail address and cell phone number on the attached Appendix B, the Patient authorizes the CLINIC, and its Providers to communicate with him/her by e-mail or text message regarding the Patient’s “protected health information” (PHI).[[1]](#footnote-1) The Patient further acknowledges that:

1. E-mail and text message are not necessarily secure mediums for sending or receiving PHI, and there is always a possibility that a third party may gain access;
2. Although the Providers will make all reasonable efforts to keep e-mail and text communications confidential and secure, neither the CLINIC, nor the Providers can assure or guarantee the absolute confidentiality of these communications;
3. At the discretion of your Provider, e-mail and/or text communications may be made a part of Patient’s permanent medical record; and
4. You understand and agree that e-mail and text messaging are not an appropriate means of communication in an emergency, for time-sensitive problems, or for disclosing sensitive information. **In an emergency, or a situation that You could reasonably expect to develop into an emergency, You understand and agree to call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency room, and follow the directions of emergency personnel.**
5. Email/Text Messaging Usage. **If You do not receive a response to an e-mail or text message within 24 hours, You agree that you will contact your Provider by telephone or other means.**
6. Technical Failure. Neither the CLINIC, nor the Providers will be liable for any loss, injury, or expense arising from a delay in responding to Patient, when that delay is caused by technical failure. Examples of technical failures: (i) failures caused by an internet or cell phone service provider; (ii) power outages; (iii) failure of electronic messaging software, or e-mail provider; (iv) failure of the CLINIC’s computers or computer network, or faulty telephone or cable data transmission; (iv) any interception of e-mail communications by a third party which is unauthorized by the CLINIC; or (v) Patient’s failure to comply with the guidelines for use of e-mail or text messaging, as described in this Agreement.

**11. Provider Absence.** From time to time, due to vacations, illness, or personal emergency, your Provider may be temporarily unavailable to provide the services referred to in Appendix A. In order to assist Patients in scheduling non-urgent visits, CLINIC will notify Patients of any planned Provider absences as soon as the dates are confirmed. In the event of your Provider’s unplanned absences, Patients will be given the name and telephone number of an appropriate provider for the Patient to contact.

 **12. Change of Law.** If there is a change of any relevant law, regulation or rule, federal, state or local, which affects the terms of this Agreement, the parties agree to amend this Agreement to comply with the law.

**13. Severability**. If any part of this Agreement is considered legally invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, that part will be amended to the extent necessary to be enforceable, and the remainder of the contract will stay in force as originally written.

**14. Reimbursement for Services Rendered.** If this Agreement is held to be invalid for any reason, and the CLINIC is required to refund fees paid by You, You agree to pay the CLINIC an amount equal to the fair market value of the medical services You received during the time period for which the refunded fees were paid.

**15. Amendment.** No amendment of this Agreement shall be binding on a party unless it is in writing and signed by all the parties. Except for amendments made in compliance with Section 12, above.

**16. Assignment**. This Agreement, and any rights You may have under it, may not be assigned or transferred by You.

**17. Legal Significance**. You acknowledge that this Agreement is a legal document and gives the parties certain rights and responsibilities. You also acknowledge that You have had a reasonable time to seek legal advice regarding the Agreement and have either chosen not to do so or have done so and are satisfied with the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

**18. Miscellaneous.** This Agreement shall be construed without regard to any rules requiring that it be construed against the party who drafted the Agreement. The captions in this Agreement are only for the sake of convenience and have no legal meaning.

**19. Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties and replaces any earlier understandings and agreements whether they are written or oral.

**20**. **No** **Waiver.** In order to allow for the flexibility of certain terms of the Agreement, each party agrees that they may choose to delay or not to enforce the other party’s requirement or duty under this agreement (for example notice periods, payment terms, etc.). Doing so will not constitute a waiver of that duty or responsibility. The party will have the right to enforce such terms again at any time.

**21. Jurisdiction.** This Agreement shall be governed and construed under the laws of the State of North Carolina. All disputes arising out of this Agreement shall be settled in the court of proper venue and jurisdiction for the CLINIC in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

**22. Service**. All written notices are deemed served if sent to the address of the party written above or appearing in Appendix B by first class U.S. mail.

The parties may have signed duplicate counterparts of this Agreement on the date first written above.

 , MD, for

FMA Direct, LLC

Signature of Patient Name of Patient (printed)

Date

**Appendix A**

**Services**

1. **Medical Services.\*** Medical Services under this agreement are those medical services that the Providers are permitted to perform under the laws of the State of North Carolina, are consistent with Providers’ training and experience, are usual and customary for a family medicine provider to provide, and include the following:[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Acute and Non-acute Office Visits
* Well-Child Care
* Chronic Disease Management
* Electrocardiogram (EKG)
* Blood Pressure Monitoring
* Diabetic Monitoring
* Spirometry
* Breathing Treatments (nebulizer)
* Urinalysis
* Rapid Test for Strep Throat
* Rapid Test for Influenza
* Removal of benign skin lesions/warts
* Simple aspiration/injection of joint
* Removal of Cerumen (ear wax)
* Wound Repair and Sutures
* Abscess Incision and Drainage
* Basic Vision/Hearing Screening
* At your Provider’s discretion, additional services may be offered for an additional fee.
* Drawing basic labs. ( Basic labs are defined as all laboratories done in-house with exception of bioassays. ) Labs and testing that cannot be performed in-house will be offered at a discounted rate through select vendors.\*

\*Patient is responsible for all costs associated with any procedure, laboratory testing, and specimen analysis.

The Patient is also entitled to a personalized, annual in-depth “wellness examination and evaluation,” which shall be performed by a Provider, and may include the following, as appropriate:

* Detailed review of medical, family, and social history and update of medical record;
* Personalized Health Risk Assessment utilizing current screening guidelines;
* Preventative health counseling, which may include: weight management, smoking cessation, behavior modification, stress management, etc.;
* Custom Wellness Plan to include recommendations for immunizations, additional screening tests/evaluations, fitness and dietary plans;
* Complete physical exam & form completion as needed.
1. **Non-Medical, Personalized Services**. CLINIC shall also provide Patient with the following non-medical services (“Non-Medical Services”), which are complementary to our members in the course of care:
2. ***After Hours Access*.** Patient shall have direct telephone access to a Provider seven days per week. Patient shall be given a phone number where Patient may reach a Provider directly for guidance regarding concerns that arise unexpectedly after office hours. Video chat and text messaging may be utilized when the Provider and Patient agree that it is appropriate and compatible software is available.
3. ***Electronic Access*. Patient shall have access to a Provider through a patient portal** to which non-urgent communications can be addressed. Such communications shall be dealt with by a Provider or staff member of CLINIC in a timely manner. **Patient understands and agrees that the patient portal and internet should never be used to access medical care in the event of an emergency, or any situation that Patient could reasonably expect may develop into an emergency.** Patient agrees that in such situations, when a Patient cannot speak to Provider immediately in person or by telephone, that Patient shall call 911 or go to the nearest emergency medical assistance provider, and follow the directions of emergency medical personnel.
4. ***No Wait or Minimal Wait Appointments.*** Reasonable effort shall be made to assure that Patient is seen by a Provider immediately upon arriving for a scheduled office visit or after only a minimal wait. If Provider foresees a minimal wait time, Patient shall be contacted and advised of the projected wait time.
5. ***Same Day/Next Day Appointments*.** When Patient calls or e-mails a Provider prior to noon on a normal office day (Monday through Friday) to schedule an appointment, every reasonable effort shall be made to schedule an appointment with a Provider on the same day. If Patient calls or e-mails a Provider after noon on a normal office day (Monday through Friday) to schedule an appointment, every reasonable effort shall be made to schedule Patient’s appointment with a Provider on the following normal office day. In any event, however, CLINIC shall make every reasonable effort to schedule an appointment for the Patient on the same day that the request is made.
6. ***Specialists Coordination.*** CLINIC and Provider shall coordinate with medical specialists to whom Patient is referred to assist Patient in obtaining specialty care. **Patient understands that fees paid under this Agreement do not include and do not cover specialist’s fees or fees due to any medical professional other than the CLINIC Provider.**

**Appendix B**

**Patient Enrollment – Medical Agreement Form**

Monthly fees, as set out in Appendix C, shall apply to the following Patient(s):

Printed Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

Street Address City, State, Zip

Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone Preferred email

Spouse Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

Home Phone Work Phone Cell Phone Preferred email

***Child/Children to Whom this Agreement Applies:***

Print Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

Print Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

Print Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

Print Name Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) Age

**Preferred Payment Method\***

□ Monthly (Credit/Debit Card/Bank Draft)

□ Annually (Credit/Debit Card/Bank Draft)

**\***All patients must have a credit or debit card on file to cover the cost of membership and any incidentals not covered under the Agreement.

Signature:

**Appendix C**

**FEE ITEMIZATION**

0-19 years of age $25 per month\*

20-45 years of age $60 per month

46-65 years of age $75 per month

Family (up to 2 adults, 2 children) $140 per month\*\*

Enrollment Fee $75 per person, or

$100 per family\*\*\*

Reenrollment Fee $150 per person, or

$200 per family\*\*\*

\*Each child must have one enrolled sponsoring adult.

\*\*$25 per month for each additional child, up to 19 years of age.

\*\*\*Non-refundable fee. Should your membership lapse or be terminated, a reenrollment fee must be paid for membership to become active.

Patient 1 $

Patient 2

Additional Patients

TOTAL RATE $

1. as that term is defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and its implementing regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As deemed appropriate and medically necessary by the Provider. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)