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EXPECTATIONS FOR THE CLOSURE PROCEDURE

The CLOSURE Procedure is an excellent, minimally invasive procedure to treat your venous insufficiency. There is a time commitment for the scheduling of each patient that is necessary on your behalf as well as my office staff. The following are expectations that I have for patients who wish to have the CLOSURE Procedure:

1. I expect all patients to have been fitted for compression stockings beforehand. This is necessary to maximize the results of the procedure.
2. Patients must have proper Venous Insufficiency Doppler studies prior to being considered a candidate for the procedure.
3. A Doppler vein mapping is done a few days prior to the procedure.
4. I will see all patients the day of the procedure to discuss any questions, and possibly obtain a picture of their leg to document before and after photos.
5. I expect all patients to have a follow up Doppler of their leg(s) at two separate time intervals after the procedure. These are at 1 week, and at 3-4 months after the procedure. This documents that the treated vein remains closed and that you have no deep clot.
6. You may notice over the first week mild improvement in the sense of the pressure on the leg and the veins. Over the first month more significant decrease in leg pressure and vein engorgement. After three months consideration may be given for additional treatment for residual veins. Not all veins magically disappear. Once you have venous disease you always have it. This is a process primarily to alleviate discomfort. Cosmetic benefit occurs, but is secondary.
7. I expect all patients to work with my scheduler, to choose a date that they wish to have the procedure performed and to STICK TO THAT DATE. Due to the involved scheduling and timing, it is very difficult to re-schedule the procedure.
8. You may NOT travel any distance by car, plane or train until you have had your initial 1 week postop Doppler in our office. There are no exceptions.

In return, you may expect from me the very best that I can do. We have tremendous experience with the Closure Procedure. Our results are published in the Journal of Vascular Surgery. I am very pleased to offer this leading-edge technology to you and hope that you are pleased with your results. I make myself available for questions or concerns to address your needs.

**THE VENOUS INSTITUTE OF BUFFALO**  
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**TO ALL OF MY PATIENTS CONSIDERING VNUS CLOSURE**

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."

They also require in most circumstances prior authorization. We have to supply for EACH individual person all of the following: clinical documentation, consultations, doppler results, letter of medical necessity, evidence of conservative management trial and failure, and in some instances photographs. As you can imagine, this makes scheduling the VNUS Closure Procedure extremely involved.

Please be aware that we have no control over these strict guidelines. You may feel frustrated, and I apologize in advance for that. Please know that we are doing everything possible to accomodate 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 of 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, please 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](http://www.VenousInstitute.com)). Be assured that I am personally involved in the entire process with you, my staff, and with the medical directors of your insurance company. 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 the scheduling process, and it is difficult to reschedule at the last minute. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I look forward to participating in your care!