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InDependence  
Pediatrics  
DIRECT PRIMARY CARE

March 20, 2024

Dear InDependence Pediatrics Members,

I'm writing to let you know about some big changes coming to InDependence Pediatrics in the coming weeks. I am very excited about the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead, but as with all change, it is a little intimidating and frightening.

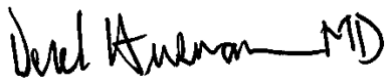
The wonderful and encouraging part is that I am going to become fully trained in pediatric functional medicine. In my journey and adventure since leaving the traditional healthcare system, I have become fully convinced that the most effective approach to preventive care and true healing for difficult medical problems is with functional medicine. But this really is an area of expertise that is best learned from others who are already doing it.

So, in order to learn functional medicine, as well as be able to take care of my family financially, I am going to be joining Shine Pediatrics and Wellness Center (<https://www.shinepediatrics.com/>) in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. They provide full-service functional medicine pediatrics. I will work there full time during the week and come home to Brenham on the weekends.

Thankfully, this does not mean that InDependence Pediatrics has to close its doors. Shine's owner Dr. Randy Naidoo has agreed to hire me full time but also allow me to continue taking care of my InDependence Pediatrics patients. **Those of you who continue membership will have a telemedicine-only membership at a monthly cost of \$75 (or your current rate if it is lower) for all children in a family. We will do in-person visits at the Brenham office 1-3 days per month, and there will be an individual charge for each of these visits.**

**Please contact the office by text or email in the coming days to let us know how you would like to proceed.** The most rewarding part of my practice as a physician are the patients, parents, families, and relationships that we build over time. Thankfully we will be able to continue those relationships either through InDependence Pediatrics or Shine Pediatrics, and Dr. Derek will soon be practicing functional medicine. The **Questions and Answers** section below will more thoroughly explain how all this will work. Let's keep moving forward.

Sincerely,



Derek Husmann, MD

## Questions and Answers:

### 1. What are my options during this transition?

- a. **Continue as an InDependence member** and transition to a telemedicine membership for \$75/month (or your current rate, if it is lower) for all children in your family. Dr. Derek will offer 1-3 days per month of clinic visits in the Brenham office, but these visits will be an extra charge.
- b. **Become a patient of Shine Pediatrics** (<https://www.shinepediatrics.com/>) in Dallas/Ft. Worth. This is a functional medicine practice where you can either use your insurance (no HMOs or Medicaid) or pay cash. There is no membership. Dr. Derek can still be your doctor. Initially, only telemedicine will be provided by Shine. Eventually, Dr. Derek will be able to see Shine patients at the Brenham office.
- c. **Cancel your membership.** Dr. Derek will hate to see you go, but he will do his best to help you transition to a new doctor.

### 2. Do I need to do anything now?

**Yes.** Please text or email Dr. Derek to let him know what you would like to do moving forward. Try to do this soon, in the next several days. Also, if you need to do any checkups or other visits for your children, they need to be completed before Dr. Derek goes to Shine Pediatrics in DFW starting April 15, 2024.

### 3. What if I don't do anything?

If you don't let Dr. Derek know what you would like to do moving forward and he is not able to contact you to clarify, then your membership will automatically convert to a telemedicine membership with InDependence Pediatrics, with the first \$75 monthly membership fee starting in May 2024.

### 4. What will be the cost of the Brenham office visits that Dr. Derek and InDependence Pediatrics will offer 1-3 days per month?

Sick visits will be \$100 per child and checkup visits will be \$165 per child.

### 5. What if I paid for a full year of membership in advance?

Whether you cancel your membership or convert it to a telemedicine membership with InDependence Pediatrics, you will receive a pro-rated refund for the difference. This will come in the form of a check by mail, once your intentions are known and the numbers are crunched.

**6. Will house calls still be available?**

Unfortunately, because Dr. Derek will be working full-time at Shine Pediatrics and offering only 1-3 days per month of in-person visits at the Brenham office, we cannot guarantee the availability of house calls. We may be able to do house calls on a limited, case-by-case basis.

**7. Will Dr. Derek be moving out of the area?**

Dr. Derek will commute to DFW and Shine Pediatrics to work full-time Monday through Friday, and then be home with his family in Brenham on the weekends. Once a month for 1-3 days, most likely Thursday—Friday (and possibly Saturday), Dr. Derek will see patients at the Brenham office. Dr. Derek has no plans to permanently move out of the area.

**8. How long will this new change continue?**

The plan is to continue this arrangement for 2 years and then re-evaluate and move forward from there.

**9. Is there a way to do a more thorough and extensive evaluation using telemedicine?**

Shine Pediatrics has already been using a system that allows for remote evaluation by the provider of ears, throat, lungs, heart, abdomen, and other systems. Families can get their own system for around \$500 from TytoCare (<https://www.tytocare.com/>). This is **NOT** a required purchase for Shine or InDependence patients.

**10. What about labs and studies?**

Dr. Derek's office is in the office space of Dr. Paul Jantzi, Brazos Valley Allergy and Asthma Clinics. His staff have agreed to be available to do Point-of-Care tests such as Rapid Flu, Rapid Strep, Covid antigen tests, and the like on a fee-for-service basis. Dr. Derek will order more extensive labs and studies to be done at the location of your choice, as in the past.

**11. What about new patients?**

We are making some big and exciting changes, but we are very committed to continuing to care for our current patients as well as offering a home for new patients. Most new patients will be encouraged to join Shine Pediatrics (<https://www.shinepediatrics.com/>). For now, Dr. Derek will continue to accept new patients for a telemedicine membership with InDependence Pediatrics.

**12. Why is Dr. Derek making this change?**

The two main reasons are for Dr. Derek to learn functional medicine and to be able to provide for his family more securely financially. Thankfully, working at Shine Pediatrics will accomplish both of those goals, understanding that this new arrangement will be hard on family time and decrease access for his valued InDependence patients.

**13. What exactly is functional medicine?**

From the Institute for Functional Medicine website (<https://www.ifm.org/>): As a catalyst in the transformation of healthcare, functional medicine takes a comprehensive approach to

prevention, health, and well-being; **treats root causes of disease;** and restores healthy function through a personalized patient experience — all while being a vital partner to conventional medicine.

**14. Where did the telemedicine membership idea come from?**

In the last half of 2022 and the first half of 2023, Dr. Derek helped out at a thriving and successful Direct Primary Care practice called Rife Pediatrics in Tomball. Dr. Bethany Rife has used this same telemedicine model for over 3 years, and it has served her patients well.