



MARSHFIELD CLINIC®

LASER HAIR REMOVAL

HAIR FACTS

- Hair grows in cycles, which vary with sex, hormonal status, and location of the hairs.
- The number of hair follicles (density) in given hair-bearing area varies among individuals.
- Each follicle produces hair in three steps: growth (anagen), resting (catagen), and shedding (telogen). These steps occur at different times in different follicles in the same area. *This makes at least two to three laser treatments necessary to achieve the most desirable results. Typically, three to five laser treatments are necessary for desired results.* Fine or light hairs that do not respond to the laser may later be removed with electrolysis.

HOW LASER HAIR REMOVAL WORKS

Laser hair removal uses laser light to target pigment in the hair follicle, causing damage to the hair root, while limiting injury to the surrounding skin. Because dark pigment responds to the laser light, dark hair in fair-skinned individuals absorbs energy most effectively. White, gray, blond, or fine hair may not absorb enough light to be effectively treated. Laser hair removal may be postponed if skin is too tanned, or it has been deemed necessary to pre-treat the area with a bleaching preparation.

Laser pulses target follicles which have actively growing hairs present. Follicles that do not contain hair due to hair removal or dormancy do not absorb laser energy; therefore they are not treated. Subsequent hair growth in the treated area is the result of newly active follicles, or changed hairs from previous treatment. The number of treatments needed will depend upon the amount of hair reductions desired, density of hair, color of hair and skin, and pattern of hair growth. Additional hair growth due to nonresponse or hormonal changes may occur in

the future; should this occur, an evaluation and fee proposal can be provided at your request.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A small number of patients (nonresponders) develop excessive regrowth. There is no way to predict which patients may be nonresponders.
- After laser hair removal, there may be swelling, crusting, or discoloration of the skin. This is temporary and will usually disappear within a few hours to several days. In dark skinned individuals, discoloration may last months. Follow up instructions provided must be strictly adhered to for your comfort and protection.

INSURANCE/COST

Laser hair removal is considered a cosmetic service solely for the purpose of altering the appearance of the patient, and as such is an uninsured service. Each laser treatment is separate, and will incur separate charges unless a specific treatment package is arranged. All actions provided by a physician, laboratory, or hospital that support such an uninsured service are not insured benefits. The costs of treatment are related to the expense of purchasing and operating laser equipment. The costs for laser service and supplies are beyond our control, and fees are subject to change without prior notice.

PATIENT INFORMATION PRIOR TO LASER HAIR REMOVAL

- **Do not clip or shave the area 3 days prior to the procedure.** Do not tweeze the area at least 2 weeks prior to procedure. This will allow the physician to better evaluate the hair growth area. The area will be shaved before the procedure.

- Do not use Retin A[®] cream, glycolic acid products, or chemical peels 7 days before treatment.
- Photos may be taken of the area to be treated. These photos are visual evidence of the effect of treatment. They may be used anonymously for the purposes of medical audit, education, and promotion.
- A topical anesthetic may be applied to the area to be treated, although this is usually not necessary. An appropriate anesthetic will be chosen depending on your needs.
- Immediately following the procedure, the area may appear red and swollen, and feel “sunburned” This effect is expected. Follow the instruction provided at the time of your treatment.