

COLORADO SPRINGS VASCULAR – SECOND OPINION PROGRAM

Comprehensive Options for Routine and Complex Cases

Patients with peripheral vascular disease often have complex conditions to deal with. Our philosophy and objective is to provide each patient with a range of minimally invasive and more traditional surgical options to help patients choose the best therapy for their particular condition. We will also discuss with you both the short and long-term potential outcomes, as well as the recommended followup, for different therapeutic options.

Oftentimes you may feel concerned, and be asking yourself: “Do I really need the procedure the physician is recommending?” or “Have I been presented with all of my treatment options?” We can help answer these questions. In addition, our Second Opinion Program may be especially helpful for complex interventional situations, or for those patients who have been told that their condition is inoperable or not treatable.

Unlike some other specialties, a Vascular Surgical Specialist is uniquely positioned to advise you due to comprehensive training and experience in noninterventional therapy, minimally invasive therapies, and more traditional open surgical procedures. This allows a wide ranging evaluation and treatment plan for your unique situation.

Our second opinion may be different from your prior opinion, or may simply reinforce and clarify your first opinion. You may indicate which of your prior treating physicians should receive our complete report.

Obtaining a Second Opinion

You can contact our office in Colorado Springs by calling 719-477-1033 between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM. An experienced vascular nurse clinician will conduct an initial, informal interview. The nurse will also work with you to obtain a release of any necessary medical records and imaging studies, such as procedure/operative notes, ultrasound, CT scan, or MRI results to help one of our physicians provide your second opinion. The nurse will then set up an appointment for you with timing dependent on the urgency of the condition and the availability of information regarding your previous evaluations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can you use test/clinic information from my current provider(s) to provide a second opinion?

A. As long as the test provides the necessary images or information. You will need to sign a release of information form for Colorado Springs Vascular, PC to obtain any previous tests. This can easily be completed via fax or you can go directly to your current provider and sign a release of information form.

Q. Will I have to have some tests repeated?

A. Additional tests may be recommended, but that would be after the patient has been evaluated. A test may need to be repeated, but only if the quality is not adequate for our vascular specialists to make their recommendations.

Q. I am not comfortable telling my doctor that I want a second opinion. Can you help with that?

A. We can fax you the release of information form, which you can sign and return via fax or mail. Procedure notes, as well as images and their reports, may also be obtained directly from the hospital or diagnostic center where they were performed.

Q. Where can I find more information about my choices and Medicare/insurance coverage?

A. Please go online to the Medicare website at www.cms.hhs.gov and search under “Getting a Second Opinion Before Surgery”. For patients with non-Medicare coverage, you will need to check with a customer service representative from your insurance plan.