

Dear Colleagues,

I'm pleased to announce the launch of my new practice, Arizona Endocrine Surgery. This is my personal venture, designed to provide focused, high-quality care for patients with endocrine conditions and those who may benefit from advanced laparoscopic procedures.

With over 30 years of surgical experience here in Arizona, I've made a pivotal decision to shift away from insurance contracts that deeply undervalued our professional services. While I will continue to participate in Medicare, I will no longer be accepting AHCCCS plans, nor will I be contracted with commercial insurance networks. This change reflects my commitment to spending more meaningful time with each patient; unhurried, unrushed, and fully focused on their care.

Referral Options and Coverage Information:

Appointments on Short Notice:

Patients with Medicare Part B or private insurance that includes out-of-network benefits will be able to schedule appointments with minimal delay.

Referrals Without Out-of-Network Benefits:

I am also open to seeing patients referred from in-network providers, even when their insurance lacks out-of-network benefits. In these cases, a signed appeal letter from the referring PCP is required, which I will submit to the insurance provider to request a one-time authorization for care. I have enclosed a sample letter for your convenience, and will also provide a finalized version after evaluating the patient.

No Compromise in Urgency or Health:

Most of the endocrine and general surgical cases I manage allow ample time for this appeal process, without negatively affecting patient health outcomes.

I am grateful for the continued support and professional collaboration you've extended over the years. I look forward to strengthening our relationship through this next chapter and providing the highest quality care to your patients.

If there's anything I can do to make this transition easier for you or your practice, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Richard J. Harding, MD, FACS
Arizona Endocrine Surgery

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<https://azendosurg.com>

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Endocrine Surgery Referral Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

I am referring my patient, XX, to Dr. Richard J. Harding for evaluation and surgical management, given his distinguished expertise and decades-long experience in endocrine surgery. Dr. Harding is recognized as one of the most accomplished endocrine surgeons west of the Mississippi River, with over 30 years of contributions to surgical innovation in this field.

Patient XX has been diagnosed with (*insert medical condition*), for which surgery is indicated. In my professional opinion, Dr. Harding's advanced surgical technique and clinical judgment offer the safest and most effective path forward. I believe the patient's outcomes and recovery will be significantly optimized under his care.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional clinical details or have questions regarding this referral.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Minimally Invasive Surgery Referral Letter

To Whom It May Concern,

I am referring my patient, XX, to Dr. Richard J. Harding for surgical evaluation and management, based on his extensive expertise and innovative techniques in minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Harding is a recognized pioneer in laparoscopic and robotic-assisted procedures in Phoenix, Arizona, with over 30 years of experience in advanced laparoscopic surgery and 15 years in robotic-assisted techniques.

He has introduced several groundbreaking operations to the Southwest region, including transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy and posterior retroperitoneoscopic adrenalectomy. Additionally, Dr. Harding has consistently performed laparoscopic foregut surgery for the past three decades.

Patient XX has been diagnosed with (*insert medical condition*), which requires (*urgent, if applicable*) surgical intervention. In my professional opinion, Dr. Harding's experience and surgical precision make him the optimal choice to ensure the safest and most effective outcome. I believe the patient's recovery and overall prognosis will be significantly improved under his care.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require additional clinical details or have any questions regarding this referral.

Sincerely,
Dr. X