



Dr. VanHouzen responds to question: What do we do with our snowbird population?

1. About 30% of patients are traveling South for the winter.
2. We see them in October or November, shortly before they leave. Some go for 2-3 months, others for up to 6 months.
3. We will see them again as soon as they return; hopefully they have not had any medical issues while they were gone.
4. If they do have medical issues when they are gone, we request that they bring any medical records with them to the appointment.
5. To prepare them for going South, we prepare a synopsis of their records (copied at the office) to take with them in case they need care while they are away.
6. For those with severe medical problems we request they obtain a physician in the place they will be for the winter, see that physician while there, and bring all records back with them when they come back.
7. On occasion we are following regular lab testing such as pro-times, we will request those records be faxed to us same day, and the patient will call the office later in the day for interpretation of the results.
8. Rare occasions we have requested patients not go South because it would be too dangerous to travel, and their condition may be too severe for travel, being away from family and their own medical care.