

CONSENT TO USE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Your physician is making available various forms of electronic communication. This is optional, but will enable far greater access to care and convenience. This consent form is required as a first step.

- Email
- Video conferencing (including but not limited to Skype, Face Time, Zoom, Doxy.me & other video platforms)
- Pathways (electronic referral tracking & notification, medical reference material)
- Text Messaging / Instant Messaging (not available yet)
- Patient Portal / Mobile Health Applications (not available yet)

PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT:

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the risks, limitations, conditions of use, and instructions for use of the selected electronic communication Services more fully described in the Appendix to this consent form. I understand and accept the risks outlined in the Appendix to this consent form, associated with the use of the Services in communications with the Physician and the Physician's staff. I consent to the conditions and will follow the instructions outlined in the Appendix, as well as any other conditions that the Physician may impose on communications with patients using the Services.

I acknowledge and understand that it is possible that communications with the Physician or the Physician's staff using the Services may not be encrypted. Despite this, I agree to communicate with the Physician or the Physician's staff using these Services with a full understanding of the risk.

I acknowledge that either I or the Physician may, at any time, withdraw the option of communicating electronically upon providing written notice. Any questions I had have been answered.

Patient Name: _____

Patient email: _____

Patient Cell Phone: _____

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX - Risks of using electronic communication

The Physician will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of information sent and received using the Services. However, because of the risks outlined below, the Physician cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of electronic communications:

- Despite reasonable efforts to protect the privacy and security of electronic communication, it is not possible to completely secure the information.
- Employers and online services may have a legal right to inspect and keep electronic communications that pass through their system.
- Electronic communications can introduce malware into a computer system, and potentially damage or disrupt the computer, networks, and security settings.
- Electronic communications can be forwarded, intercepted, circulated, stored, or even changed without the knowledge or permission of the Physician or the patient.
- Even after the sender and recipient have deleted copies of electronic communications, back-up copies may exist on a computer system.
- Email, text messages, and instant messages can more easily be misdirected, resulting in increased risk of being received by unintended and unknown recipients.
- Email, text messages, and instant messages can be easier to falsify than handwritten or signed hard copies. It is not feasible to verify the true identity of the sender, or to ensure that only the recipient can read the message once it has been sent.

Conditions of using the Services

- While the Physician will attempt to review and respond in a timely fashion to your electronic communication, the Physician cannot guarantee that all electronic communications will be reviewed and responded to within any specific period of time. The Services will not be used for medical emergencies or other time-sensitive matters.
- If your electronic communication requires or invites a response from the Physician and you have not received a response within a reasonable time period, it is your responsibility to follow up to determine whether the intended recipient received the electronic communication and when the recipient will respond.
- Electronic communication is not an appropriate substitute for in-person or over-the-telephone communication or clinical examinations, where appropriate, or for attending the Emergency Department when needed. You are responsible for following up on the Physician's electronic communication and for scheduling appointments where warranted.
- Electronic communications concerning diagnosis or treatment may be printed or transcribed in full and made part of your medical record. Other individuals authorized to access the medical record, such as staff and billing personnel, may have access to those communications.
- The Physician may forward electronic communications to staff and those involved in the delivery and administration of your care. The Physician might use one or more of the Services to communicate with those involved in your care. The Physician will not forward electronic communications to third parties, including family members, without your prior written consent, except as authorized or required by law.
- You agree to inform the Physician, in writing, of any types of information you do not want sent via the Services. You can add to or modify the above list at any time by notifying the Physician in writing.
- The Physician is not responsible for information loss due to technical failures associated with your software or internet service provider.

Instructions for communication using the Services - To communicate using the Services, you must:

- Include in the message's subject line an appropriate description of the nature of the communication (e.g. "prescription renewal"), and your full name in the body of the message.
 - Review all electronic communications to ensure they are clear and that all relevant information is provided before sending to the physician.
 - Take precautions to preserve the confidentiality of electronic communications, such as using screen savers and safeguarding computer passwords.
 - Inform the Physician of any changes in the patient's email address, mobile phone number, or other account information necessary to communicate via the Services.
 - Withdraw consent only by email or written communication to the Physician.
- If you require immediate assistance, or if your condition appears serious or rapidly worsens, you should not rely on the Services. Rather, you should call the Physician's office or take other measures as appropriate, such as going to the nearest Emergency Department or urgent care clinic.**

I have reviewed and understand all of the risks, conditions, and instructions described in this Appendix.

Patient signature

Date
