

Joseph S. Weiner, MD, PC
E-Mail and TEXTING CONSENT FORM

Email communication and texting can be convenient and effective ways to communicate. However, before you send information to, or receive information from your physician by email or texting, you should be aware of the potential risks and responsibilities. After reading these risks and responsibilities, if you would like to communicate with Joseph S. Weiner, MD, PC by email or text, please sign the bottom of this consent form.

1. RISK OF USING E-MAIL or Texting

Joseph S. Weiner, MD, PC offers patients the opportunity to communicate by e-mail or texting. Transmitting patient information by e-mail or texting, however, has a number of risks that patients should consider. These risks include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. E-mails or texts can be circulated, forwarded, and stored in numerous paper and electronic files.
- b. E-mails or texts can be immediately broadcast worldwide and be received by many intended and unintended recipients.
- c. E-mail or text senders can easily misaddress an e-mail resulting in the email reaching an unintended person.
- d. E-mails or texts are easier to falsify than handwritten or signed documents.
- e. Backup copies of an e-mail or text may exist even after the sender or the recipient has deleted his or her copy.
- f. Employers and on-line services have a right to archive and inspect e-mails or texts transmitted through their systems.
- g. E-mails or texts can be intercepted, altered, forwarded, or used without authorization or detection.
- h. E-mails or texts can be used to introduce viruses into computer systems.
- i. E-mails or texts can be used as evidence in court.

2. CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF E-MAIL or Texting

Dr. Weiner will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of e-mail information sent and received. However, because of the risks outlined above, he cannot guarantee the security and confidentiality of e-mail or text communication, and he will not be liable for improper use and/or disclosure of confidential information that is not caused by his intentional misconduct (including Protected Health Information that is the subject of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996). Thus you must consent to the use of e-mail for patient information. Consent to the use of e-mail or texting includes agreement with the following Conditions:

- a. All e-mails or texts to or from you concerning diagnosis or treatment will be printed out and made part of your medical record. Because they are a part of the medical record, other individuals authorized to access the medical record, such as staff and billing personnel, will have access to those e-mails.
- b. Dr. Weiner may forward e-mails or texts internally to the Practice's staff and agents as necessary for diagnosis, treatment, reimbursement, and other handling.
- c. Although Dr. Weiner will endeavor to read and respond promptly to an e-mail or text from the patient, he cannot guarantee that any particular e-mail or text will be read and responded to within any particular period of time. **Thus, you should not use e-mail or texting for medical emergencies or other time-sensitive matters.**

