

PATIENT E-MAIL CONSENT POLICY

Many patients prefer the convenience of e-mail to other forms of communication. Urology Austin (“Urology Austin”) offers patients the opportunity to communicate by e-mail in certain cases. Although Urology Austin acknowledges the conveniences of e-mail, transmitting patient information by e-mail has risks that you should seriously consider prior to using e-mail.

These risks include, but are not limited to:

- e-mail can be circulated, forwarded, and stored in numerous paper and electronic files;
- e-mail can be received by both intended and unintended recipients;
- e-mail senders can easily send an e-mail to the wrong e-mail address;
- e-mail is easier to falsify than handwritten or signed documents;
- e-mail can be intercepted, altered, forwarded, or used without authorization or detection;
- e-mail can introduce viruses into computer systems;
- e-mail can be used as evidence in court;
- backup copies of e-mail may exist even after the sender or the recipient has deleted his/her copy; and;
- employers and on-line services have a right to archive and inspect e-mails transmitted through their systems.

Taking into account these risks, Urology Austin will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of e-mail communications as required by HIPAA, HITECH and Texas law; however, it is impossible for Urology Austin to guarantee the security and confidentiality of mail communications. Should confidential information be improperly disclosed, through no fault of Urology Austin, Urology Austin will not be liable for such disclosures.

E-MAIL SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

Urology Austin will make every effort to read and respond to your e-mail however, we cannot guarantee that any particular e-mail will be read and responded to within any particular period of time. Therefore, should you need immediate assistance, please call the office you visit by visiting www.urologyaustrin.com/locations to find the phone number of the main office you visit.

By consenting to communicate with Urology Austin through e-mail, you also agree to the following responsibilities:

- if you send an e-mail to Urology Austin that requires a response and one is not given within a reasonable time frame, it is your responsibility to follow up with Urology Austin; and
- you should NOT use e-mail in order to make disclosures about sensitive medical information such as:
 - Substance abuse
 - Mental health

It is your responsibility to inform the practice of any changes to your e-mail address.

PATIENT EMAIL CONSENT POLICY

PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT

I acknowledge that I have read and fully understand the Urology Ausitn, PLLC Patient Email Consent Form

I understand the risks associated with e-mail communication as set forth in this consent policy.

Despite the risks associated with e-mail, I agree that Urology Austin may use e-mail to facilitate communications to or about me.

Patient Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____