

# **GUIDELINES FOR TEXT COMMUNICATIONS**

**With Jay Tyroler, MD, his office staff and covering providers.**

For both HIPAA compliance and the protection of my patients, it is my practice to minimize the use of text communication with all patients. I do not initiate text contact with patients on matters that would require the inclusion of Protected Health Information. Nonetheless, when a patient requests that they be able to initiate text communication with me, I work to accommodate the request to the extent it would promote the patient's health and my provision of medical care. In that event, I will provide my cell phone number and the patient can initiate communication with me using text. I will then assume, unless otherwise instructed, that the text communication is acceptable to the patient.

Communication via text message can be effective in the right situations. For your protection, and to comply with Federal Privacy laws, please follow these guidelines:

1. Limit texts to non-urgent medical questions and matters.
2. Clearly identify yourself in the body of the text.
3. **Please do not use text to report acute, urgent or new conditions. During office hours, please call my concierge direct office phone number. After hours, please call my cell for urgent requests. For all emergencies, dial 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.**

My office does not encrypt text messages. Text messages are not secure protected modes of communication. Your information may be available for others to view and/or capture in the public domain. Although I will treat your communication with the same care as I do your medical records and phone calls, please do not include sensitive information in your text messages. Specifically, do **not** include your social security number, financial information, or private personal health information.

I will not include attachments containing Protected Health Information in any unencrypted email or text communications.

## Text Informed Consent

I have carefully reviewed these guidelines. I hereby authorize **Jay C. Tyroler, MD, his staff and covering providers** to communicate with me via text message regarding healthcare issues and medical questions or concerns.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_