

# Informed Consent for Telemedicine Services

## Introduction

Telemedicine involves the use of electronic communications to enable health care providers at different locations to share individual patient medical information for the purpose of improving patient care. Providers may include primary care practitioners, specialists, and/or subspecialists. The information may be used for diagnosis, therapy, follow-up and/or education, and may include any of the following:

- Patient medical records /Medical images
- Live two-way audio and video/Facetime
- Output data from medical devices and sound and video files

## Expected Benefits

Improved access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in his/her dermatologist's office (or at a remote site) while the physician obtains test results and consults from healthcare practitioners at distant/other sites.

- More efficient medical evaluation and management.
- Obtaining expertise of a distant specialist.

## Possible Risks:

As with any medical procedure, there are potential risks associated with the use of telemedicine. These risks include, but may not be limited to:

- In rare cases, information transmitted may not be sufficient (e.g. poor resolution of images) to allow for appropriate medical decision making by the physician and consultant(s);
- Delays in medical evaluation and treatment could occur due to deficiencies or failures of the equipment;
- In very rare instances, security protocols could fail, causing a breach of privacy of personal medical information;
- In rare cases, a lack of access to complete medical records may result in adverse drug interactions or allergic reactions or other judgment errors

By signing this form, I understand the following:

1.I understand that the laws that protect privacy and the confidentiality of medical information also apply to telemedicine, and that no information obtained in the use of telemedicine which identifies me will be disclosed to researchers or other entities without my consent.

2. I understand that I have the right to withhold or withdraw my consent to the use of telemedicine in the course of my care at any time, without affecting my right to future care or treatment.

3. I understand that I have the right to inspect all information obtained and recorded in the course of a telemedicine interaction, and may receive copies of this information for a reasonable fee.

4. I understand that a variety of alternative methods of medical care may be available to me, and that I may choose one or more of these at any time. My dermatologist has explained the alternatives to my satisfaction.

5. I understand that telemedicine may involve electronic communication of my personal medical information to other medical practitioners who may be located in other areas, including out of state.

6. I understand that it is my duty to inform my dermatologist of electronic interactions regarding my care that I may have with other healthcare providers.

7. I understand that I may expect the anticipated benefits from the use of telemedicine in my care, but that no results can be guaranteed or assured.

8. I hereby consent to have Dr. Robin Blum and/or Melissa Bennett, PA-C communicate with me via email, text, or facetime regarding all aspects of my medical care and treatment. I understand that this method of communication may not be confidential. I understand that there is a risk that this method of communication may be intercepted by third parties or transmitted to unintended parties. I also understand that any communication may be printed out and will be made part of my medical record.

9. I understand and acknowledge that if this visit is not covered by my health insurance plan I will be charged a flat rate of \$75.

#### **Patient Consent To The Use of Telemedicine**

I have read and understand the information provided above regarding telemedicine, have discussed it with my physician or such assistants as may be designated, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I hereby give my informed consent for the use of telemedicine in my medical care.

I hereby authorize Dr. Robin Blum and/or Melissa Bennett-PA-C to use telemedicine in the course of my diagnosis and treatment.

Signature of Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient):

Date:

If authorized signer, relationship to patient:

I have been offered a copy of this consent form (patient's initials)