

Adult & Pediatric Ear, Nose & Throat

501 South Drake Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 (269) 343-1296

Instructions for Allergy Injections

ALLERGY INJECTION POLICY:

- At each allergy injection you must have a complete list of all your current medications (including over-the-counter). Please inform our office if you have any changes with your medications. Allergy injections will not be given without this information.
- **You must have up to date Epi-Pen** and demonstrate knowledge in its use before you receive your injection. Epi Pen prescriptions are generally valid for 1 year. **If you do not have your Epi-pen, you MUST have your arm checked before you leave the office.**
- You will be asked to remain IN THE OFFICE for 20-30 minutes following your injection. If you notice ANY unusual symptom after your injection PLEASE inform the staff IMMEDIATELY. Please let our office make the decision as to whether some vague symptoms which you may feel is a genuine reaction.
- To start, injections will be given on a weekly basis. In order for you to receive maximum benefit from immunotherapy, it is important for you to come on a regular basis.
- Injections can be given NO sooner than 5 days from your last injection, NOR can we advance you if more than 10 days elapse between injections.
- Do not get your injection if you have the flu or infection, if you have a fever, have chest tightness/cough, or are not feeling well. It is better to wait a few days. If you are having allergy symptoms the injection might help alleviate your symptoms.
- If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant please contact the allergy nurse before you receive your next injection.
- You must be seen at least once a year by a provider while undergoing injection therapy.

REACTIONS:

- If after receiving your injection you experience a reaction such as throat or chest tightness, swelling (welts) or shortness of breath you need to administer the Epi-Pen and call 911. Please tell them you have had an allergy injection, when you had the injection and your symptoms. In the event that you receive emergency treatment you need to contact our office as soon as possible.
- Doses may be adjusted based on reactions after injections. If at the injection site you get swelling and redness the size of a quarter or half dollar, call the allergy nurse during business hours before your next injection.
- It is normal to experience itching and a pink flare (or redness) surrounding the injection site. This should be gone by the next day.
- It has been shown that patients improve with allergy shots in proportion to the strength of the prescription, but also that the incidence of reactions increases with the strength of the prescription. It is our philosophy to balance risk versus benefits, to try to get you better and off injections in 3-5 years; although some patients do require longer durations. The majority of reactions are mild and easily reversible with treatment of an antihistamine or if more serious treatment with Epi-Pen.

INSURANCE:

- You are responsible for checking with your insurance carrier concerning coverage and authorization. We will be using the following CPT codes: 95165 x # of doses (antigen preparation); 95115 (one injection); 95117 (two injections).
- Patient co-pays, deductibles, and out of pocket portions left after insurance payment should be kept current and in good standing. If we are not participating with your insurance carrier and prior arrangements have not been made, you will need to pay at time of service.
- Please notify us if you have any insurance issues or if your insurance coverage changes.

Patient Signature _____

Date _____