

Informed Consent/Refusal for Telemedicine Services

PATIENT NAME: _____ LOCATION OF PATIENT: _____	DATE OF BIRTH: _____	MEDICAL RECORD #: _____
PHYSICIAN NAME: _____ LOCATION: _____ CONSULTANT NAME: _____ LOCATION: _____ CONSULTANT NAME: _____ LOCATION: _____	DATE CONSENT DISCUSSED: _____	

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
- Output data from medical devices and sound and video files

Electronic systems used will incorporate network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of patient identification and imaging data and will include measures to safeguard the data and to ensure its integrity against intentional or unintentional corruption.

Expected Benefits:

- Improved access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in his/her ophthalmologist'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;

Please initial after reading this page: _____

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 physician 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 physician 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.

MEDICAL INFORMATION & RECORDS: All existing laws regarding your access to medical information and copies of your medical records apply to this telemedicine consultation. Please note, not all telecommunications are recorded and stored. Additionally, dissemination of any patient- identifiable images or information for this telemedicine interaction to researchers or other entities shall not occur without your consent.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to eliminate any confidentiality risks associated with the telemedicine consultation, and all confidentiality protections under federal and South Carolina state law apply to information disclosed during this telemedicine consultation.

RIGHTS: You may withhold or withdraw consent to the telemedicine consultation at any time without affecting your right to future care or treatment, or risking the loss or withdrawal of any program benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled.

DISPUTES: You agree that any dispute arising from the telemedicine consultation will be resolved in South Carolina, and that South Carolina law shall apply to all disputes.

RISKS, CONSEQUENCES & BENEFITS: You have been advised of all the potential risks, consequences and benefits of telemedicine. Your health care practitioner has discussed with you the information provided above. You have had the opportunity to ask questions about the information, presented on this form and the telemedicine consultation. All your questions have been answered, and you understand the written information provided above.

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. Damon Daniels and/or the assigned physician*) 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: _____

Witness: _____ *Date:* _____

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

Patient Refusal To The Use of Telemedicine

I refuse to participate in a telemedicine consultation for the procedure(s) described above.

Signature: _____ *Date:* _____

If signed by someone other than the patient, indicate relationship: _____