

### **Patient Email Consent Form**

Please read carefully. This form discusses the risks of using email to share personal health information with Lifeline Medical Associates (LMA).

Your decision to use email is strictly voluntary, and your consent may be rescinded at any time. Email will be accessed by a staff member within 48 to 72 hours of receipt.

**If you are experiencing a true medical emergency, please contact your Emergency Medical Services (911), or call your nearest hospital or medical practice.**

#### **Email should not be used for the following scenarios:**

- In an emergency
- If you are experiencing any desire to harm yourself or others
- If you are experiencing a severe medication reaction
- If you need an immediate response

#### **Risk involved with emailing personal health information:**

To protect our patients' privacy, we encrypt and secure personal health information when it is stored in our system. When requested to send personal health information, we prefer to use more secure methods than email to transmit such information.<sup>1</sup>

Due to the inherent risks and lack of security with email, LMA does not transmit PHI without specific consent/permissions of the patient.

Please consider the following risks before requesting or transmitting personal health information via email.

- Emails sent by LMA that contain personal health information are encrypted and secure
- Email messages received by LMA are generally not encrypted and will not be secure.
- Third parties, including hackers, may be able to intercept, read, alter, forward or use personal health information transmitted by email, without authorization or detection by you or LMA.
- Someone posing as you could access your information.
- Email messages may be accidentally or unintentionally forwarded to unintended recipients.
- Emails may not be received by either party in a timely manner as it may be caught in junk/spam filters.
- Employers and internet service providers generally have the right to inspect and review any email message transmitted, received, or stored using their systems.
- Information shared by email may be printed, copied, and stored by any recipient in multiple locations.
- Copies of email messages containing personal health information may be kept, for example on backup servers or hard drives, long after the "original" message is deleted by both the sender and the recipient.
- LMA is not responsible for any unauthorized access to or use of your personal health information that results from any unencrypted transmission that you authorize.

