

Welcome to Carolina Skin Surgery Center

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Electronic Communication via SMS Text Message Patient Authorization and Consent Form

Patient name _____ Private mobile number _____

The Purpose of Text Messages

Short message service (SMS) is also called text messaging. The use of text messaging to discuss your health is voluntary. You can ask to stop getting these texts at any time by calling our main number.

Risks of Using Text Messages

Sending and receiving texts has risks. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Your doctor may share protected health information (PHI) with you through standard texts. These texts may not be secure. This means that the messages are not encrypted (coded so others cannot read them) while in transit from the doctor to your phone.
- Texts can be sent or forwarded to anyone without the original sender's knowledge. Texts might be sent to the wrong person. A risk of using text messages happens if you change your mobile number. In this case, a message transmitting confidential information could be sent to another person's device.
- Copies of texts can be kept on mobile devices for a long time, even after the original message has been deleted. This may allow someone you do not know to see your messages. This could happen if the mobile device is recycled, stolen, or lost.
- If your mobile device is not password-protected, anyone can see your text messages.
- A text message can go to multiple devices (e.g., an iPhone and an iPad that use the same Apple ID) even if they are sent to only one phone number.
- If you use your work device to send or receive texts about your health, there is a chance that your employer could read these messages.
- If you send a text message to your doctor, you may not get an answer right away.
- Talking with your doctor or office staff about sensitive subjects through texts is risky. Other people might see messages about your mental health, reproductive health, substance use, HIV status, or genetic disorders. To protect your privacy, talk with your doctor about these topics in person or on the phone.
- **Never use text messages for an urgent problem or in an emergency.** If you think you have a medical emergency, call 911, go to the nearest emergency room, or call your doctor right away.

Patient Acknowledgment

By signing below, I confirm that:

- I have had the chance to ask questions about using texts to talk to my doctor or office staff;
- I am at least 18 years of age, and I am responsible for my mobile account;
- I agree to all terms and conditions of using text messaging;
- The number listed on this form will be used unless/until I notify the practice to not use it;
- I will report back to the practice if my number changes or I would like to stop receiving any text messages;
- I understand that message/data rates may apply to all messages sent and received;
- I am aware of the risks of using texts;
- All of my questions have been answered; and
- I would like to send and receive texts about my health with my doctor and the office staff.

Signature of Patient or Responsible Party

Date and Time

Relationship to Patient (if Responsible Party is not Patient)

Witness

Date and Time