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Communication Consent

Use of email, text messaging and voice mail – Please read carefully

As a patient of Cole Medical you may elect to receive communications that contain your protected health information by unencrypted email, and reminders via text messaging and voice mail. We recognize that these forms of communication are not a completely secure method of communication but serve as a benefit to our patients. Emails, texts and voicemails may be intercepted or stored by the recipient on an unencrypted device or email service (ex. Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail). This means a third party may be able to access your health information and read it since it is transmitted over the internet or cellular service. In addition, once messages are received by you, someone may be able to access these messages. You are not required to authorize the use of email, voice mail and/or text messaging and a decision not to sign this authorization will not affect your health care in any way.

EMAIL

I understand the risks of unencrypted email and I give permission to Cole Medical to send my PHI via unencrypted email.

I do not want to receive email communications from Cole Medical.

TEXT

Yes, please enable me for text messages regarding appointments, refills and/or from my provider.

No, I do not want to receive text messages.

VOICE MAIL

Yes, I authorize Cole Medical to leave voice mail messages on my phone.

No, I do not want to receive voice mail messages.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed name: _____ **Relationship to patient:** _____

Email guidance for protected health information is available on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/faq/570/does-hipaa-permit-health-care-providers-to-use-email-to-discuss-health-issues-with-patients/index.html>. The guidelines state that if a patient has been made aware of the risks of unencrypted email, and that same patient provides consent to receive health information via email, then a health entity may send that patient personal medical information via unencrypted email.