

Utah Spine Medicine
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HIPAA Email Consent

VERY IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

- HIPAA stands for the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*. It was passed in 1996 by the U.S. government to establish privacy and security protections for health information.
- Although information stored on our computers are encrypted, most popular email services (e.g. Gmail®, Yahoo!®, Hotmail®) do NOT utilize encrypted email.
- **When we send you an email, or you send us an email, the information in that email is NOT encrypted. This means that a third party may be able to access the information and read it once it is transmitted over the Internet. In addition, once you receive the email, someone may be able to access your email account and read it.**
- Because email is a very popular and convenient way to communicate for a lot of people, the federal government provided guidance on email and HIPAA in their latest modification to the HIPAA Act.
- This information is available on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-25/pdf/2013-01073.pdf>, page 5634.
- The guidelines state 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.

Please choose one of the following options:

Option 1: ALLOW unencrypted email

I understand the risks of unencrypted email and do hereby give permission to Utah Spine Medicine to send me personal health information via unencrypted email.

Patient Name: _____ Email: _____

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Parent or guardian if patient is a minor)

Option 2: DO NOT ALLOW unencrypted email

I do not wish to receive personal health information via email.

Patient Name: _____

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Parent or guardian if patient is a minor)

Please bring the completed form to your visit. Thank you!