HIPAA email consent

VERY IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

* HIPAA stands for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
* HIPAA was passed by the U.S. government in 1996 in order to establish privacy and security protections for health information
* Information stored on our computers is encrypted
* Most popular email services (ex. Hotmail®, Gmail®, Yahoo®) do not utilize encrypted email
* When we send you an email, or you send us an email, the information that is sent is not encrypted. This means a third party may be able to access the information and read it since it is transmitted over the Internet.
* In addition, once the email is received by you, someone may be able to access your email account and read it.
* Email is a very popular and convenient way to communicate for a lot of people, so in their latest modification to the HIPAA act, the federal government provided guidance on email and HIPAA
* The information is available in a pdf (page 5634) on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website

‐ <http://www.go.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR‐2013‐01‐25/pdf/2013‐01073.pdf>

* 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.