

Patient Communication & Financial Policies

The following are internal policies set in place by Forefront Dermatology, S.C. and its affiliated practices ("Forefront"). Signature is required before services can be provided.

Patient Communications: In Forefront's discretion, information of a confidential nature may be left on your voicemail or answering machine at the preferred number(s) you have provided to Forefront or with a friend or family member who answers the telephone at one of the preferred numbers or at your residence and who can verify your address and date of birth. Such message may include, without limitation, reminders of upcoming scheduled appointments, information regarding your pathology or laboratory tests, billing information, or answers to medical questions you may have inquired about to our staff. Forefront may also communicate with you via e-mail, text message, or post card to your home address provided such method complies with applicable HIPAA communication standards.

Research: I authorize Forefront to contact me regarding any research study in which I may be eligible to participate relating to my care.

Insurance Filing: As a courtesy we will bill your insurance company for charges incurred at our clinic. Please remember your health insurance is a contract between you and your insurance company. Our office will make two attempts to settle any outstanding bill with your insurance company. If your insurance deems a service to be not covered by your insurance plan you agree to be responsible for the balance of this service. Claims not paid by your insurance carrier within 90 days will be considered a non-covered service. We will furnish information required by the insurance company to receive payment. Benefits should be paid directly to the Practice from your insurance company. If your insurance company reimburses you directly for any outstanding amounts due to us, payment will be expected by us within 10 days. I hereby assign to Forefront all my rights and claims for reimbursement under my health insurance policy. I agree to provide information as needed to establish my eligibility for such benefits.

Bad Debt Account Status: I realize that if my account is in bad debt I will be required to pay a **down payment** of \$150.00 prior to my scheduled appointment. In the event that this down payment exceeds the visit cost, the overpayment will first be applied towards any outstanding balance or bad debt balance and any remaining balance will be refunded to you. I realize that if my account is sent to collections, Forefront may also elect to dismiss me as a patient from the practice. If I pay off my bad debt account, my account will be returned to good standing status and I will not be required to make a down payment on future visits unless I am placed into collections again in the future. This provision does not apply to patients who currently have Medicaid health insurance coverage or to patients who are currently under bankruptcy or any other insolvency protection.

Financial Responsibility: A \$35.00 charge will be added for any non-sufficient funds notice from the bank. I understand and agree that I will be responsible for all legal fees and other costs of collection if my account is turned over to an attorney or agency for collection in which case your visit/s with our office may become a matter of public record.

Medicaid Affidavit:

ALL patients must answer →

At this time I, _____ represent and warrant that I

(Print Your Name)

I do I do not have **Medicaid coverage**.

(Check One - if unmarked, default is a representation that you do not have Medicaid currently. If you are completing this form on a system where you cannot circle one, please inform the staff immediately if you have Medicaid health insurance coverage)

If we find at a later time that you did not provide accurate information above, you will be responsible for the balance of the charges incurred. It is your responsibility to inform our office if you acquire any type of Medicaid coverage at a later time. If you don't provide the updated information to our office you may be responsible for the balance of your bill. Not all locations and providers participate in Medicaid programs. The patient will be responsible for the full amount of services provided when this circumstance is applicable.

Non-insured Patients: Non-insured patients will be charged a **down payment** prior to seeing a provider on the date of service. This is not considered payment in full. The down payments are as follows:

- New patient Office Visit: \$178
- Established Patient Office Visit: \$150
- Excision Visit: \$800
- MOHS Visit: \$1,000

Final charges will be determined after the provider sees the patient and a complete assessment is made. The provider may require payment in full for procedural services prior to rendering such a service. If the balance is paid in full within two weeks from the date of the statement, a 20% discount for cash/check or a 15% discount for credit card will apply. **This discount does not apply to Cosmetic procedures and injectables.**

Co-payments, Co-insurance, Deductible, & Cosmetic Procedures: Payment is due on the date of service prior to seeing the provider. Deductible amounts may be collected prior to the provider completing the service. Payment for a cosmetic procedure is due in full prior to treatment. There are no returns on cosmetic products sold unless such products are defective or, in the opinion of your provider, caused an adverse reaction.

Procedure Pricing

I understand that procedure estimates are only provided in writing. Written estimates must be requested prior to the appointment.

X _____ until revoked
Signature of Patient or Legal Representative **Date of Birth** **Date**

Relationship to Patient

Consent to Clinical Procedures

Patient Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

I hereby consent to the medical and surgical care and treatment, as may be deemed necessary or advisable in the judgment of my physician or other provider. This may include, but is not limited to laboratory procedures (including diagnostic testing such as lab draws and skin biopsies), medical and surgical treatment or procedure (including wart treatments, surgical removals, or excisions), or other services rendered during my visit with Forefront Dermatology, S.C. or its affiliated practice ("Forefront").

In order to ensure that you understand all aspects of your visit, you are encouraged to ask any questions or clarify any procedures prior to them being performed. Our dermatology providers will answer any questions and discuss any procedures, concerns and goals with you in regard to the following:

- Benefits of the proposed procedure.
- The way the treatment or procedure is to be performed.
- Alternative treatment options.
- Probable consequences of not receiving the treatment.
- The right to withdraw informed consent at any time, in writing.
- Risk and side effects involved with the procedure.
- Potential for additional incurred charges.

Should a biopsy be performed, or any other procedure in which a section of your skin is removed, the specimen will be sent to a pathology lab for an accurate diagnosis, unless otherwise recommended by your clinician. This process will involve any testing necessary including special staining or outside consultations which will incur additional charges.

I acknowledge that some medical diagnoses (such as warts) will require multiple treatments with one or more methods that may change throughout the course of treatment and each office visit and procedure will be billed accordingly.

With any procedure, there are risks involved which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Scar – Scarring is possible with any procedure of the skin. We will do everything we can to provide you with the best cosmetic result possible, but the final cosmetic outcome is not guaranteed.
- Infection – The entire procedure will be done in a sterile and/or clean fashion. Still, a small number of people will get a wound infection.
- Bleeding – Some procedure may create some bleeding. Rarely will someone have significant bleeding after they leave such that they would have to come back to have us treat it.
- Nerve damage – This will be thoroughly discussed with you by your provider if it is a potential during your procedure.

COVID-19: I recognize that Forefront has implemented reasonable preventative measures aimed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, given the nature of the virus, I understand there is an inherent risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 by virtue of proceeding with an elective treatment or procedure. I understand that possible exposure to COVID-19 before/during/after my treatment or procedure may result in extended quarantine/self-isolation, additional tests, hospitalization and rehabilitation and the risk of other potential complications, including death. I hereby acknowledge the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 through this elective treatment or procedure.

I authorize pictures to be taken before, during and after the procedure. These pictures and digital images will become part of your medical record and may be used or disclosed as permitted by HIPAA. They may also be sent to your family physician and/or referring physician.

Since each insurance company has its own policies regarding the coverage of procedures, I also acknowledge that I am responsible for payment in full for the charges incurred for procedures regardless of the coverage provided by my insurance carrier. If I am concerned about the cost associated with treatment, it is my responsibility to request a procedure estimate prior to starting treatment.

I have read the consent form in its entirety. I understand the risks associated with procedures that may occur during my visits at Forefront. I do not impose any limitations on Forefront and its staff. I understand that I should discuss any questions or concerns with my dermatology provider prior to any procedure and therefore; with my signature, agree to have any necessary procedures performed.

Patient signature / Date

The undersigned hereby provides consent as the parent or guardian of the above referenced minor patient.

Parent or Guardian signature/ Date

Relationship to Patient

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Your Health Care Information - Protecting Your Privacy

It is your right as a patient to be informed of the privacy practices of your health care provider as well as your privacy rights with respect to your personal health information. This Notice of Privacy Practices (the "Notice") is intended to provide you with this information.

Forefront Dermatology Responsibilities

It is your right as a patient to be informed of Forefront Dermatology's legal duties with respect to protection of the privacy of your protected health information ("PHI").

Forefront Dermatology is required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information;
- Provide you with a notice of the legal duties and privacy practices regarding PHI collected and maintained about you;
- Notify you if you are affected by a breach of unsecured PHI; and
- Abide by the terms of this notice.

Forefront Dermatology reserves the right to change our privacy practices and update this Notice accordingly. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for PHI we already have about you as well as any PHI we receive in the future.

Forefront Dermatology will not use or disclose your PHI without your authorization, except as described in this notice.

Your Rights Regarding Your PHI

NOTE: *All written requests must be made in writing to the Forefront Dermatology Privacy Officer at the address below.*

You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your PHI.**
You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your PHI. Requests for restrictions must be in writing, as specified above. You must advise Forefront Dermatology: (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit Forefront Dermatology's internal use, disclosure to third parties, or both; and (3) to whom you want the limit(s) to apply. We are not required to agree to your request, except when you request that we restrict disclosure of your PHI to a health plan for a health care item or service for which you have paid out-of-pocket in full and the disclosure is for the purpose of carrying out payment or health care operations, and not otherwise required by law.

Receive Confidential Communications.

You have the right to request that Forefront Dermatology communicate your PHI to you by alternative means or at alternative locations. We will use our best efforts to accommodate reasonable requests. For example, you may request to be contacted at a phone number that is different from the phone number listed in your health care record.

Inspect and obtain a copy of your health record.

You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your health care record. This request for access to your health care record must be submitted in writing, as specified above. This right may not apply to certain types of psychotherapy notes. Forefront Dermatology may charge you a reasonable fee for a copy of your health care record.

We will inform you if we cannot fulfill your request, and you can ask us to reconsider the denial by contacting our Privacy Officer at the address below. Depending upon why the denial was made, we may ask a licensed health care professional to review your request and the denial.

Amend your health record.

If you believe that any PHI in your records is incorrect or incomplete, you may submit a written request (as specified above) to correct the information in your records. We may deny your request if you ask us to amend PHI that is: (i) accurate and complete; (ii) not created by Forefront Dermatology; (iii) not part of the PHI kept by or for Forefront Dermatology; or (iv) not PHI that you would be permitted to inspect and copy. If we deny your request, you can ask us, in writing, to review that denial.

Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your PHI.

You have the right to an "accounting of disclosures," which is a list of disclosures of your PHI that we have made to outside parties, except for: (i) those necessary to carry out treatment, payment and healthcare operations; (ii) disclosures made before April 14, 2003; (iii) disclosures made to you; (iv) disclosures you authorized; and (v) certain other disclosures. You may receive one accounting per year at no charge; we may charge you a reasonable fee for each subsequent request.

Your request for an accounting of disclosures must be in writing, as specified above, and must state a time period that may not be longer than six years prior to the date the accounting was requested.

Obtain a paper copy of the notice upon request.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of the notice upon request. For example, if you received the notice electronically, you may request that Forefront Dermatology provide a paper copy of the notice.

How We May Use and Disclose Your PHI

- For Treatment.** Forefront Dermatology may use or disclose your PHI in the provision, coordination or management of your health care.

Example: Physicians involved in your care will need PHI relating to your history, symptoms, disease and prognosis in order to coordinate care for you.

Example: Forefront Dermatology may use your PHI to provide you with an appointment reminder.

Example: Forefront Dermatology may send you information about treatment alternatives or other health related services that may be of interest to you.

- For Payment.** Forefront Dermatology may use or disclose your PHI to obtain reimbursement for the provision of health care services. The bill may include information that identifies you, your diagnosis and your treatment.

Example: Forefront Dermatology may use or disclose your information to your insurer to obtain payment for the provision of health care services, or to obtain prior authorization for the service.

- For Health Care Operations.** Forefront Dermatology may use or disclose your PHI for our health care operations.

Example: Forefront Dermatology may use your PHI to assess the care and outcomes in your case or to, as a whole, improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care we provide.

- **To Business Associates.** Forefront Dermatology may disclose your PHI to “business associates” who provide services to or on behalf of Forefront Dermatology.
- Communication with Individuals Involved in Your Care.** Unless you tell us otherwise, we may share your PHI with friends, family members or others you have identified or who are involved in your care. We may share your PHI with disaster relief organizations so that your family, friends or others you have identified can be notified of your location and condition in case of disaster or other emergency.
- Research:** Under certain circumstances, Forefront Dermatology may use or disclose your PHI for research purposes. Under certain circumstances, we may share your PHI for research purposes without your written permission. All research projects are, however, subject to a special approval process. Most research projects will require your specific permission if a researcher will have access to information that identifies you.
- As Required by Law:** Forefront Dermatology will disclose your PHI where required by law. For example, federal law may require your PHI to be released to an appropriate health oversight agency, public health authority or attorney.
- **Workers compensation:** Forefront Dermatology may disclose PHI to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers’ compensation or other similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- Public Health:** We may disclose your PHI for public health activities. For example, Forefront Dermatology may disclose your protected PHI to State agencies for the purpose of statutory reporting.
- Health Oversight Activities:** We may share your PHI with a health oversight agency for audits, investigations, inspections and licensure necessary for the government to monitor the health care system and government programs.
- Public Safety:** We may use and disclose your PHI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety, or the health and safety of the public or another person.
- Victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence:** Forefront Dermatology may disclose PHI if Forefront Dermatology reasonably believes that an individual is a victim of child or elderly abuse.
- Judicial and Administrative Proceedings:** Forefront Dermatology may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order, a subpoena, a warrant, a discovery request or other lawful due process.

- ❑ **Law enforcement:** Forefront Dermatology may disclose your PHI for law enforcement purposes as authorized or required by law or other lawful due process. For example, we may be required by law to report certain types of wounds or other physical injuries.
- ❑ **Coroner or Medical Examiner:** Forefront Dermatology may release PHI to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary to identify a deceased person or to determine the cause of death. We may also release your PHI to a funeral director, as necessary, to carry out his/her duties.
- ❑ **For cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes:** We may release your PHI to organizations that handle organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.
- ❑ **Specialized Government Functions:** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may share your PHI with the military for military command purposes. We may also release PHI about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- ❑ **Correctional Institution:** Should you be an inmate of a correctional institution, Forefront Dermatology may disclose to limited staff of the institution or agents thereof PHI necessary for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

Other Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI

We may use or disclose your PHI as described above without your authorization. Other uses and disclosures of PHI not described in this Notice will be made only with your authorization. We will obtain your written authorization for: (i) most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes; (ii) most uses and disclosures of PHI for marketing purposes, as defined by HIPAA; and (iii) disclosures that constitute a sale of PHI, as defined by HIPAA. If you give us authorization to use or disclose your PHI, then you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. Your revocation will be effective upon receipt, but will not be effective to the extent that Forefront Dermatology or others have acted in reliance upon the authorization.

Patient Complaint Process

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with Forefront Dermatology or with the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health and Human Services electronically via the OCR Complaint Portal, or on paper by mail, fax or via e-mail (OCRComplaint@hhs.gov). We will not take any action against you for filing a complaint.

To file a complaint with Forefront Dermatology please contact the Forefront Dermatology's Privacy Officer who will provide you with the necessary assistance.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your privacy rights or the information in this notice, please contact:

Compliance Officer
Forefront Dermatology
Phone: 920-663-0505