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Cardiovascular Disease and Invasive Cardiology

INFORMED CONSENT FOR MEDICAL OFFICE PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS

The physicians and staff at Heart of Georgia Cardiology, LLC are pleased that you have selected us to help you with your concerns about your health. We try to help you find the cause of your problem and appropriate treatment for that problem. The information you provide for us and the examinations and tests performed are all used to determine the most likely diagnosis for your problem. **The diagnosis may be difficult to determine at first as many problems present in a similar manner.** Tests that are more difficult to perform and may have the possibility of complications are usually not recommended until they are necessary to help you determine the cause of your problem.

The treatments are selected to help you cure or improve your health problem. **No treatment is 100% effective for all patients and all treatments have some potential for complications.** We try to select the best treatment with the least potential for complications to try to help you. Many of the treatments are selected from the successful experience we have had in using them. Others are recent improvements that have been successful in medical trials. It is not uncommon for physicians to prescribe different therapies for the same condition and get essentially identical results. There are other alternatives for treating some problems, such as herbal remedies and acupuncture, in which physicians may have limited experience or the medical studies may be inadequate or contradictory such that would not recommend these as a first choice of treatment.

It is important to understand that complications can occur with even the simplest treatment. Anything that enters the body has the potential of a very serious reaction. Some people will die from a bee sting or just eating a peanut if they have a serious allergy to either of these. Unfortunately, no one knows if they have allergies to any food, drug or other chemical until they have a reaction. If these reactions are severe, they will cause rash, swelling and sometimes difficulty breathing. If these reactions occur, one should seek medical help. **If severe swelling or shortness of breath or wheezing should occur, one should go to the nearest medical emergency facility and even call 911 if necessary.** Of course, do not take any more of the treatment prescribed and be sure to tell the prescribing physician and pharmacy that filled the prescription about the reaction. This could happen by taking medications through any route such as swallowing pills or liquids, applying creams to the skin, suppositories inserted or injections received.

Some medications have special precautions that will be explained to you when you receive them. Some examples are:

- You should not be in the sun for very long while taking these prescriptions.
- Some medications react with other medications in a bad way. It is very important that you tell the prescribing physician and possibly the pharmacist all medications you are currently taking.
- Many prescriptions should not be taken if you are pregnant or possibly pregnant. **It is very important to advise anyone prescribing a medication or performing a test or treatment for you if you are pregnant or might possibly be pregnant.**
- Many medications may cause mild nausea or upset stomach that are not serious. Serious nausea or vomiting needs attention, and you should advise the prescribing physician about this problem. **If you develop diarrhea while taking an antibiotic, discontinue the antibiotic and notify your physician immediately.**
- Immunizations are made from the virus or bacteria that cause the illness you are trying to avoid. You may notice "flu-like" symptoms that may be very uncomfortable for a few days. **Rarely a severe reaction may occur and cause a significant medical problem or even death.** These are unpredictable and unfortunate to the individual when they occur. This risk is recognized as the only way large numbers of people can avoid these diseases that can also be very serious and even lead to death.

Anything that penetrates the skin such as a shot, biopsy or surgical removal of a lump may have complications such as:

- The introduction of an infection under the skin. This will first be noticed as redness and tenderness that spreads. Contact the physician as soon as possible.
- There may be bleeding that may cause a bruise or blood clot under the skin. This will absorb and go away in time. If the blood clot becomes infected, it will become increasingly tender and arm and redness will spread. Call your physician if this occurs.
- Bleeding may occur and continue. Blood may seep from the incision or it may begin to swell within a couple of hours following the procedure. Apply pressure on the bleeding or swelling and notify your physician.
- Something under the skin may be injured. This could be a nerve that could cause a loss in sensation or decrease in muscle tone. Notify the physician as soon as you are aware of this possibility. It is likely that nothing can be done to remedy this complication.

The prescribing physician may not be available when you call about a possible complication. Other physicians or members of the staff of this office will be able to assist you when you call if necessary. Please indicate that this is a medical problem from a treatment or procedure and that you need to speak to someone on the clinical staff.

This information is provided to help you decide if you wish to receive the treatment or tests recommended with the knowledge of these potential complications. You will receive more information about medications provided to you by your pharmacist. **By signing this, you are giving your consent and permission for the physicians and staff to prescribe and perform treatments and tests they recommend for your health needs.** You should ask any questions you might have if you do not understand the potential benefits and complications. You always have the right to not take any prescription or refuse any procedure or test even if you have previously consented to it. The alternative for not accepting the treatment prescribed and doing nothing is that the condition may get worse, stay the same or possibly get better on its own. As mentioned before, there usually are alternative treatments available for your particular problem.

This informed consent will be kept on record and considered active for all treatments following the date of your signature. You will receive a copy to have available whenever you should need it. This will apply to any treatments and recommended test should they occur in this office, as a result of a phone call from you, at a hospital or an emergency facility when any physician or staff of this office is present. For procedures and tests with more significant and specific complications, a specific informed consent will be obtained.

Signature of Patient

Date

Print Patient's Name