

ALLERGY and ASTHMA OF ST. LOUIS

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CONSENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF IMMUNOTHERAPY (ALLERGY INJECTIONS)

PLEASE READ AND BE CERTAIN THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BEFORE SIGNING THIS CONSENT FOR TREATMENT

1. IMMUNOTHERAPY, the process by which an "allergic" person is made less sensitive to specific allergens (e.g. pollen, dust, mold, stinging insect venoms, etc.) is accomplished by repeated injections of increasing amounts of an allergen (or allergens) into the body of the allergic individual. The specific prescription to be given is determined by the individual's history of exposure, symptoms upon exposure, and results of allergy testing.
2. You have been tested and a course of immunotherapy injections has been prescribed for you. You will be subjected to a slight risk of reactions secondary to these injections. Some of these reactions may be life threatening and may require immediate medical attention. In order of increasing severity, the following brief descriptions explain the nature of these potential reactions:
 1. LOCAL REACTIONS are common and are usually restricted to a small area around the site of the injection. However, they may involve the entire upper arm, with varying degrees of redness, swelling, pain and itching. These reactions are more likely to occur as you reach the higher concentrations and higher volume injections. You should notify the nurse if your local reactions exceed two inches in diameter.
 2. GENERALIZED (SYSTEMIC) REACTIONS occur in less than one percent of all patients receiving immunotherapy (but the most important because of the potential danger of progression to collapse and death if not treated.):
 - Urticarial reactions (hives) include varying degrees of rash and swelling of more than one part of the body, as well as itching. There may be mild to moderate discomfort. This is not a common reaction and may occur within minutes to hours after an injection.
 - Angioneurotic edema (swelling) is rare and is characterized by swelling of any part of the body, inside or out, such as the ears, tongue, lip, throat, intestines, hands, or feet, alone or in any combination. This may occasionally be accompanied by asthma and may progress to the most severe reaction, anaphylactic shock. In the absence of shock, the principal danger lies in suffocation due to swelling of the airway. This reaction may occur within minutes after the injection and requires immediate medical attention.

- Anaphylactic shock is the rarest complication, but is a catastrophic event characterized by acute asthma, vascular collapse, unconsciousness, and potentially, death. This reaction usually occurs within minutes of the injection. As with angioneurotic edema, life-saving medical intervention may be required to counteract the reaction.
3. The above reactions are unpredictable and may occur with the first injection or after a long series of injections, with no previous warning. The reactions do not seem to be necessarily related to the dose (concentration or amount) of injected allergen.
 4. All patients receiving immunotherapy injections should wait in the office waiting area for 30 minutes following each injection. Occasionally, if you have a reaction you may have to remain in the office longer for a medical treatment. If a reaction occurs after you have left the office, you should return to the office or the nearest hospital emergency department. If you cannot wait the 30 minutes, you should not receive an immunotherapy injection. Under no circumstances will injections be permitted without the immediate availability of emergency medical treatment. If injections prescribed by this office are to be given elsewhere, the office must be provided with the name and address of the physician who will assume the responsibility for your injections.
 5. Females of childbearing potential: If you become pregnant while on immunotherapy, notify the office staff immediately, so that the doctor may determine an appropriate dosage schedule for the immunotherapy injections during the pregnancy. Immunotherapy doses will not be advanced during pregnancy, but may be maintained at a constant level.
 6. Please notify the office staff if you start any new prescription medications, particularly medication for high blood pressure, migraine headaches, and glaucoma.
 7. Initial start-up allergen extracts are billed to your insurance carrier upon the consent to begin immunotherapy, even if you do not ever receive an injection. Any amounts not covered by your insurance carrier will be your responsibility. I also understand that additional medications and/or procedures may be required in the event of a reaction of the injections.

(Patient Name and Account Number)

(Patient or Legal Guardian)

(Relationship of Guardian)

(Witness)

(Date)