



HIPAA Email Consent

HIPAA stands for 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.

- Most popular email services (ex. Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo., etc.) 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 available in pdf (page 5634) 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>.

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.

☐ **Option 1: ALLOW unencrypted email**

I understand the risks of unencrypted email and do hereby give permission to Urology Center of Columbus to send me personal health information via unencrypted email.

☐ **Option 2: DO NOT ALLOW unencrypted email**

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

Patient Signature

Print Patient Name

Date: _____