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## COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL/ TEXT

### Security Risks

Most standard email providers such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc. and most cellular providers do not provide a secure or encrypted means of communication. As a result, there is risk that any protected health information contained in an email or text message may be disclosed to, or intercepted by unauthorized third parties. Additionally, email and text messages accessible through personal computers, laptops, or phones have inherent privacy risks especially when the email or cellular account is provided by an employer, when the account is not password protected, or the account is shared. Use of more secure communications, such as phone or email are preferred and always an available alternative, especially if you are communicating information that you feel is sensitive.

### Responsibility

When consenting to the use of email or text through such unsecured or unencrypted systems or when you send Dr. Linkner an email or text, you are accepting responsibility for any unauthorized access or disclosure of protected health information contained within the message. Dr. Linkner will not be responsible for unauthorized access of protected health information while in transmission.

### Additional Information

It is important to understand that emails and text messages will not be used to replace or facilitate communications between you and your physician and will not be considered private communications. **If you have an immediate need or an emergency situation, you must contact the Practice by telephone or dial 9-1-1** if applicable. At the Dr. Linkner's discretion, any email or text message received or sent may become part of your medical record.

By completing and signing this form, or by initiating contact with Dr. Linkner via email, text, or web form, I am acknowledging that I understand the risks associated with texting or emailing protected health information, and I am consenting to Rita V. Linkner, MD FAAD and staff of RVL Skincare, PC to communicate with me via email or text message at the number or email provided by me to Dr. Linkner or staff of RVL Skincare, PC.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_