





## PATIENT CONSENT FORM AND FINANCIAL POLICY

### Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information

Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC (also referred to as “the Practice” within this form) may use and disclose protected health information (PHI) or individually identifiable health information (IIHI) about me to carry out treatment, payment and healthcare operations (TPO). Please refer to the Practice’s Notice of Privacy Practices for a more complete description of such users and disclosures. I have the right to obtain a copy of my medical records by sending the practice a written request. I may also access my records through the online patient portal if I choose to use it.

I have reviewed the Notice of Privacy Practices prior to signing this consent. Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC reserves the right to revise its Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. A revised Notice of Privacy Practices may be obtained by forwarding a written request to Vanguard Medical Specialists, 9348 Grand Cordera Pkwy, Ste 160, Colorado Springs, CO 80924.

With my consent, Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC may call or text my home or other designated location, including my emergency contact if I cannot be reached, and leave a message on voicemail or in person in reference to any items that assist the practice in carrying out TPO, such as appointment reminders, insurance items and any call pertaining to my clinical care, including laboratory results among others.

With my consent, Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC may mail and/or e-mail to my home or other designated location any items that assist the practice in carrying out TPO, such as appointment reminder cards and patient statements. Email communication is unencrypted.

I have the right to request that Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC restrict how it uses or discloses my PHI/IIHI to carry out TPO. However, the practice is not required to agree to my requested restrictions, but if it does, it is bound by this agreement until other written notice is given.

By signing this form, I am consenting to Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC’s use and disclosure of my PHI/IIHI to carry out TPO.

I may revoke my consent in writing except to the extent that the practice has already made disclosures in reliance upon my prior consent. If I do not sign this consent, Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC will decline to provide treatment to me.

### Consent for Treatment

By signing this form, you are giving your permission for the doctors and staff of *Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC* to treat you, including biopsy or procedure(s), as deemed necessary in the exercise of their professional judgment. This may include obtaining medical records from other doctors’ offices and medication history from external sources, e.g., Surescripts, pharmacies, etc. Medical care requires your cooperation, so it is important that you follow the doctor’s orders, prescriptions, make and keep appointments for follow up care (as indicated), and call the office to note any changes in or concerns about your condition.

### Photographs

Your physician and the Practice may take photographs to record your surgery/procedure(s). Reproduction or publication of said photographs and recordings will be used for the purpose of medical/scientific study and research, education, before and after surgical portfolios, and/or documentation for your medical record.

### Payment for service

The patient is responsible for paying the full amount for all services on the day of service, unless the Practice has an agreement with your insurance carrier. For insured patients, your share of the service, e.g., co-payments and deposits toward unmet deductibles, will be collected upon check-in. Wound check and suture removal visits are billed visits, depending on the type of surgery and your insurance. **If you are in a grace period with your insurance carrier, we will collect payment on the day of your appointment for all services provided.** We accept cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

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Please initial \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance claims



For insured patients, the Practice may release any information, including the diagnosis and the records of any treatment or examination rendered to you during the period of such medical care to third party payers, including Medicare. Your insurance company, in lieu of reimbursing you directly, will pay to the doctor or medical group any benefits for services rendered. Your medical insurance carrier may pay less than the actual fees for services, so you may be responsible for payment of all services rendered. As a courtesy, the Practice will file insurance claims with standard carriers. You are responsible for making available complete insurance information for accurate filing of claims. Reduction or rejection of your claim by your insurance company does not relieve the financial obligation you have incurred. It is to your advantage, as well as your responsibility, to know and understand your medical insurance coverage. Not all services are a covered benefit in all contracts. **Dermatology is not considered preventative by most insurance carriers.** Please call your insurance company to verify your benefits. As a courtesy, our staff verifies benefits for surgery, but there can be misquotes and or misunderstandings—insurance companies do not guarantee payment when we call for authorization. You will be responsible for all fees not paid by your insurance company.

### **Referrals and Authorization**

As a specialist, some insurance companies (particularly HMOs and Tricare) require that prior to any visit you must obtain an authorization or referral from your primary care physician. It is your responsibility to know if this is required for your insurance and if so, to procure the referral. If this is not done by the day of your appointment, you will be asked to either reschedule your appointment after contacting your primary care physician, or pay for the services at the time you are seen. If your insurance company rejects a claim because a valid authorization or referral was not in place, the full cost of the visit will be your responsibility.

### **Financial Assistance**

For patients with financial need, we offer a financial assistance program for the treatment of skin cancers. Please ask a member of our staff for more information if you are interested.

### **ADDITIONAL CHARGES FOR WHICH YOU MAY RESPONSIBLE**

#### **Laboratory Fees**

You may receive a separate bill. The practice may use an outside laboratory, for biopsies, wound cultures, and other incidental tests. For insured patients, we will provide the laboratory with your insurance information. The pathology services typically range from \$110 to \$250 per specimen. The cost can be substantially higher if additional tests or a second opinion is required. For example, unusually complex case may require a special stain and/or second opinion which will significantly increase cost per specimen.

#### **Scheduling fees**

If you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, please contact our office at least 24 hours in advance. We reserve the right to charge \$25.00 for any appointment which is not cancelled with proper notice. Surgery and patch appointments that are not cancelled with proper notice will be charged \$50.00. Additionally, ***we will not continue to see patients who have no showed, or cancelled or rescheduled within 24 hours of their appointment 3 times.***

#### **Unpaid account balances**

We send patient statements monthly. All accounts unpaid after two statements will accrue an additional \$25.00 transfer fee and be transferred to our outside collections agency to manage the collections process. Any returned checks or cancelled credit card charges will incur a fee of \$25.00

**Patient agreement:** *I have read the above form and agree to the terms stated. I hereby acknowledge receipt of Vanguard Medical Specialists, LLC's Notice of Privacy Practices. I realize that payment is my obligation regardless of insurance or third party involvement.* **Signing of the consent is acceptance of all terms as they are written. No amendments or modifications will be granted.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Vanguard Skin Specialists 24 Hour Appointment Cancellation Policy

If you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, please contact our office at least 24 hours in advance. If you do miss, cancel, or reschedule an appointment with less than 24 hours' notice, our cancellation policy is as follows:

- **1st Instance:** We understand that life happens and schedule conflicts may arise unexpectedly. The first instance of a missed, cancelled, or rescheduled appointment within 24 hours of your scheduled appointment time will not be counted against you and no fee will be charged.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Instance:** We will charge \$25 which must be paid prior to rescheduling. If your insurance does not allow the collection of a charge, you will have to wait 60 days to reschedule your appointment.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Instance:** The third instance will result in a dismissal from our practice. You will have to wait 3 years to reschedule.

Due to the high cost of allergens, patch appointments that are not cancelled with proper notice will always be charged \$50. Surgery and aesthetic appointments are also charged a fee of \$50.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the Cancellation Policy for Vanguard Skin Specialists as described above.

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Signature

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Date



**Welcome to Vanguard Skin Specialists! We are committed to providing you with the highest quality patient care and experience. Please let any staff member know if we can do anything to make your visit more pleasant.**

**Thank you for entrusting us with your medical care.**

(1) How did you hear about Vanguard Skin Cancer Specialists? (Check all that apply)

**Media/Advertising**

- Flyer or Sign. Location \_\_\_\_\_
- Internet
- Colorado Springs Style
- Cordera Magazine
- Flying Horse Magazine
- Women's Edition
- Newspaper
- Postcard or letter in the mail
- Radio
- Pandora
- Television
- Yellow pages

**Word of mouth**

- Referral from another doctor
- Referral from another patient. Patient's name \_\_\_\_\_
- Other word of mouth. Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Other sources**

- Drove by the office and saw the sign
- Listed as part of insurance company network
- Other. Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Whom are you seeing today?

- David Archibald, MD
- James Banich, MD
- Vinh Chung, MD
- Rachel Frederickson, PA-C
- Shea Kersh, PA-C
- Michael Leslie, MD PhD
- Renata Prado Oliveira, MD
- Emily Reynolds, FNP-BC
- Megan Stimpson, PA-C

(3) What is the reason for your appointment today? (Check all that apply)

- Mohs Micrographic Surgery & Other Skin Cancer Surgeries
- Non-Skin Cancer Surgery (Examples: Excision/Cryosurgery for Pre-malignant & Benign Lesions)
- Skin Exam or Diagnosis of Potential Skin Cancer
- Cosmetic Service (Examples: Botox, Dermabrasion, Reconstruction)
- Other Dermatology Concern (Examples: Acne, Alopecia, Warts, Rashes)