

ATLANTA CLINIC OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

A HOLISTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE SINCE 1980

Dr. William E. Richardson, M.D. - Board Certified

3280 Howell Mill Road, Suite 205, Atlanta, GA 30327

(404) 350-9607 · Fax (404) 350-9481

website: acpm.net · email: acpmdoc@bellsouth.net

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

I seek the medical and health care services of William E. Richardson, MD-PC, its employees, and staff. I understand that this medical practice uses some diagnostic and treatment methods that are known as complementary, alternative, or holistic. Many of these methods have **not been accepted by consensus mainstream medicine**.

Some of the characteristic qualities of complementary medicine that are used in this practice include the following:

1. A person's lifestyle including his or her diet, exercise patterns, sleep habits, stresses, and interpersonal relationships are believed to be directly related to the development and maintenance of illness. Complementary medicine evaluates these factors and seeks to help the patient give up negative lifestyle patterns and establish more positive ones regardless of age or type of medical problem.
2. Although prescription and over-the-counter medications are used when the physician believes it is necessary, an attempt is first made to use products that are natural to the body. These include nutritional supplements such as vitamins, minerals, enzymes, amino acids, essential fatty acids, and herbs.
3. In addition to recommending that a patient take nutritional supplements by mouth, we frequently recommend that a patient receive a series of injections either intravenously or by intramuscular injection. Some of the reasons for recommending this procedure include the assurance that the particular substance gets into the body (which may not happen when the supplement is taken orally and the patient has absorption problems) and achieving high concentration of the substances in the bloodstream, which may be difficult if the substance is taken only by mouth.
4. Because we look for imbalances in the body and for trends that may result in illness if not addressed, we sometimes order tests that may be considered by consensus mainstream medicine to be either unnecessary or of no value. These may include tests for nutritional status, such as blood levels or functional vitamin or mineral tests, hormonal levels, or tests for allergies.

These tests could include:

- Food Allergy Panel
- Comprehensive Digestive Stool Analysis
- Liver Function/Detoxification Test
- Comprehensive Parasitology Test
- Amino Acid Panel
- Heavy Metals Screening

Intestinal Permeability Test

5. We believe that environmental factors may play a major role in health and disease. Some of the diseases of unknown cause may be triggered or perpetuated by common environmental substances, many of which are man-made. Individuals may vary greatly in their susceptibility to various substances, so that one individual may be made deathly ill by exposure to a substance while another is not at all affected. We attempt to identify offending substances and help patients to detoxify from past exposures that are affecting them.
6. We very much believe in a person being involved in his own health care and encourage questions, exploration, and participation in decisions surrounding diagnostic and treatment procedures. We encourage consultations with consensus mainstream medicine practitioners and use of any other means that a person feels he needs to help him decide about health issues.
7. We believe in the mind-body-spirit connection in bringing about wellness and preventing and dealing with illness. Consequently, part of our program may involve recommendations for counseling, meditation, psychotherapy, or spirituality forgiveness work.
8. Exercise is extremely important in maintaining health and promoting wellness as well as helping one to recover from an illness. Graded exercise, both aerobic and stretching, is encouraged for most patients.
9. We sometimes use medications that are approved by the FDA to treat one condition to treat another condition for which the FDA has not approved the medication. Perhaps the best example is our use of EDTA chelation therapy to treat all forms of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and other degenerative diseases.

The above represents some of the ways that our practice may differ from other physician's offices that you have visited. You should also be aware of the following points:

- 1) Our practice is exclusively an office based practice. We do not work in a hospital. Additionally, some patients come long distances to receive care at our office. Consequently, **WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that in addition to our care you maintain a relationship with one or more physicians appropriate to your condition and situation, for example, a pediatrician in the case of children. Cardiac patients should have a cardiologist; cancer patients an oncologist. We are happy to cooperate with any physician who is willing to work with us.
- 2) **WE MAKE NO GUARANTEES THAT YOU WILL BE HELPED WITH YOUR MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR CONDITIONS BY UNDERGOING TREATMENT HERE.** However, we will guarantee to make our best effort to guide you to accomplish your health care and wellness goals.
- 3) In our office, we make available nutritional supplements and other recommended products. Generally, we believe the prices are competitive with outside sources. (Please let us know if you find this not to be the case.) Mail order service is also available from our office. **YOU ARE IN NO WAY OBLIGATED TO PURCHASE THESE PRODUCTS FROM THIS OFFICE. YOU ARE FREE TO PURCHASE THESE PRODUCTS FROM ANY SOURCE THAT YOU MAY CHOOSE.**

- 4) Most health insurance plans today have clauses which limit coverage to “usual and customary fees for reasonable and necessary services.” Because many of the treatments used in complementary medicine are not recognized by consensus mainstream medicine, we cannot guarantee the amount or availability of coverage for our services and treatments under your health care insurance policy. You are responsible for the payment of our invoices without regard to insurance coverage. You are entitled to know the cost of all services and procedures in advance. Please ask if they are not told to you.

I have read, understand, and agree to the foregoing. I agree that if I ever have any claim with respect to the services and treatment given to me by William E. Richardson, MD-PC, its employees, and/or staff, that they shall be judged by the standards and principles of complementary, alternative, and holistic medicine, and not by the standards and principles of consensus mainstream medicine. I understand that I have the right to review this Consent with a lawyer if I choose before accepting any medical services from William E. Richardson, MD-PC. I have executed this Consent freely and willingly, and understand its provisions. I recognize that William E. Richardson, MD_PC will rely upon my execution of this document in accepting me as a patient. I acknowledge receipt of a copy of this Consent.

Date

Patient Signature

Patient's Printed Name

Date

Witness Signature

Witness' Printed Name