



Austin Newsome, MD, FAAD

SMS/Text Message Communication Consent

At Essential Dermatology, we offer the option to communicate with patients via **SMS (text messaging)** for convenience. However, it's important to understand the risks associated with this type of communication. **SMS text messaging is not a secure form of communication.** Messages are not encrypted and may be intercepted or read by others if your phone is lost, stolen, or accessed by unauthorized users. We **will not send sensitive medical information** via text. This includes diagnoses, test results, or other protected health information (PHI), unless you request it and acknowledge the risks. For secure, encrypted communication, we strongly recommend using the **Spruce Medical Communication app**, available on the App Store and Google Play. Secure messaging through Spruce protects your personal health information. You may opt out of SMS communication at any time by notifying our office.

By signing below I understand that SMS text messaging is not secure and may be intercepted or read by unintended parties. I consent to receive general communications from Essential Dermatology via SMS text message, such as appointment reminders, scheduling updates, and administrative information. I understand that I have the option to use the **Spruce Medical Communication app** for secure communication and that it is the preferred method for discussing any clinical concerns or sensitive information.

Patient Signature _____ Date _____

I decline to communicate with the office with text/SMS

Patient signature _____ Date _____

101 Rolesville Center Rd
Suite 125 Rolesville NC 27571
919-205-4473