



Asthma & Allergy Centers of Central Michigan

RAMESH B. AVULA, M.D.

Diplomate of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology

Enclosed is some important information to be read, filled out, and brought with you for your appointment, which is at

_____ In: 1234 E. Broomfield, Mt. Pleasant
1515 Lake Lansing Rd.
123 Lansing, Charlotte

The doctor's history and examination usually takes ½ hour and at that time, he will determine if allergy skin testing is to be done. If this is to be done, the patient could be here the better part of TWO HOURS for a complete work up.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please inform us as soon as possible and definitely no later than 24 hours so that your time may be used for someone else who may need it. **THERE WILL BE A \$50.00 CHARGE IF YOU DO NOT GIVE A 24 HOUR NOTICE OR IF YOU DO NOT SHOW FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

- [] Please check with your insurance company regarding your coverage for allergy skin testing. **THIS IS NOT ALWAYS A COVERED BENEFIT.** Please be aware that you are still responsible for copays and/or your deductible if it is a covered benefit.
- [] Your insurance is filed as a courtesy to you, the patient. The contract remains between the responsible party and your insurance company.
- [] Also, please determine if your insurance company requires a referral. If so, you are responsible for obtaining this through your primary care physician's office prior to your appointment.

If you have any questions or concerns about fees please call our office at (517) 484-3966 or (800) 991-2762.

DO'S

1. Please complete the allergy survey based on your observations and answer the questions that you may feel relevant to your problems. When you come to the appointment we will review this information with you and examine you. If necessary we will perform skin testing on the same day.
2. If you had been previously evaluated by an Asthma, Allergy & Immunology physician, please obtain a copy of your medical record from their office. This will aid us in continuing further care if you are on shots and wish to continue them. To obtain a copy of your medical records please contact your previous allergist.
3. **MINORS (below 18 years of age) coming for Allergy/Immunology evaluation MUST be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. There will be NO exceptions.**
4. If you are taking a beta-blocker (Inderal, Tenormin, Lopressor, Corgard, etc.) for heart, blood pressure headaches, or eye drops for glaucoma (Timoptic, Betoptic) please notify us during the office visit.

DON'T'S

1. **For the allergy skin testing to be valid, you should not take any medications containing antihistamines for a period of 7 days prior to the appointment. (Please call our office for instructions.)**

Antihistamines are oral medication taken for nasal problems or itching and watery eyes and include: Benadryl, Chlortrimeton, Actifed, Clarinex, Claritin, Allegra, Fexofenadine, Zyrtec, Atarax. Loratadine, Astelin, Antivert, Xyzal and many others. Please note: many cough medicines also include antihistamines and must be discontinued.

2. You should be off certain antidepressant medication (Elavil, Pamelor, Tofranil, Nortryptiline and many others) 7 days prior to skin testing. Please check with your primary physician before you discontinue these medications.
 - Certain acid blockers like Tagamet, Zantac, Pepcid, and Axid should be discontinued for 24 hours prior to skin testing. **Medication that you are taking for other reasons, such as those for asthma, blood pressure, diabetes and thyroid, etc. should be continued as you regularly do.**

If you are uncertain about stopping any medication prior to the skin testing, please contact us at (517) 484-3966 or (800) 991-2762 for further clarification.