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## ENT SPECIALISTS

## SOENTS ALLERGY TREATMENT PATIENT INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to our Allergy Department! We would like to let you know what to expect during the course of your treatment.

Allergy injections (shots) are given weekly during the build-up phase. Allergy injections are usually given for 3 to 5 years depending on each patient's individual response. Follow up visits with your ordering physician are required on a regular basis every 6-12 months in order to continue with immunotherapy (allergy shots). Your physician will determine the frequency of your injections once you have reached a maintenance level. Depending on your response and symptom relief, you may need to be retested during this period.

Your allergy shots are from a "custom-made for you" extract of the specific allergens you have reacted to. Each vial of these extracts is usable for 3 months. Beginning each vial requires a test wheal to measure the safety of that vial, making sure it is not too strong for your current treatment level.

Allergy shots will not be given if you do not present a current form of injectable emergency epinephrine when you come! (Epi Pens or Auvi-Q). After receiving your allergy shots, it is MANDATORY that you remain in the office for a period of 20 minutes and have the nurse check your arm(s) before leaving.

During the course of your allergy treatment, it is possible for a reaction to occur. It is common for your arm(s) to get red and itchy. If you have a local reaction such as swelling at the injection site, or if a mild systemic reaction occurs such as increased allergy symptoms (i.e., sneezing, congestion, etc.) let us know before your next injection. Please note the size of the swelling (measure the size as dime, nickel, quarter, etc.), and how long the swelling or systemic reaction lasted. This will help us decide what your next dose should be. You can apply ice packs, topical antihistamines, and/or take oral antihistamines or your regular medications for allergy symptoms to help with the discomfort.

If you have a more severe systemic reaction such as swelling in the throat, wheezing, a sensation of tightness in your chest, nausea, dizziness, itching all over, faint feeling, and/or irregular heartbeat, let us know immediately. If you have left our office, you may need to use your emergency epinephrine injection. You should always keep this with you on the day of your injection. It is rare that you might need to use it, but the chance is always there. If you have these symptoms, whether or not you use your emergency epinephrine, call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room. Time is critical here!!! Do not leave the emergency epinephrine in your car. The extreme heat or cold will damage it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call. We will be happy to try to answer them for you! Our number is 937-496-2620 X 454.

<u>Head & Neck Surgery • Ear, Nose, Throat & Sinus Surgery • Pediatric ENT • Voice Analysis & Rehabilitation</u>

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