## Welcome to the Allergy & Asthma Institute of SE Michigan

We hope that the following information is helpful as you prepare for your initial visit. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

**New Patient Forms:** If you have not completed our <u>new patient forms</u> and returned them to our office prior to your appointment, please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time to complete necessary paperwork.

## Please allow up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for your initial office appointment.

What to expect during your first visit: Every patient has unique allergies, allergy symptoms and medical conditions. Therefore, your initial medical evaluation will be 1 to 1½ hours in duration. In addition to a detailed medical history and physical examination, we will discuss the most appropriate testing & treatment options for your specific condition with you. When medically appropriate, your first visit will include skin prick testing (SPT) and/or pulmonary function testing (a breathing test), which will increase your appointment time to 2 to 2½ hours.

We recommend that you eat a good meal prior to your appointment time. If the patient is an infant or small child, please bring ample baby supplies or favorite toys. Due to the wide range of food allergies that we see in our office, please do not bring food (other than baby bottles) into the clinic.

Medications & allergy testing: When we schedule your initial office evaluation, you will be asked several questions to determine if you should be prepared for skin testing. If your initial visit will include skin testing, it will be necessary to discontinue any allergy medications that will effect the testing. Click here for a list of medications and the number of days you must not take them prior to testing. If your medication is not listed and are unsure if your medication will effect skin testing, please contact our office at least 7 days prior to your appointment.

If you have previous allergy testing, laboratory tests or x-rays that are related to the reason that you are seeing us: It is helpful when patients bring (or have your physician send) a copy of laboratory and/or skin tests, pulmonary function tests, chest x-rays or reports or any other relevant test results to the initial appointment. The reports may be faxed directly to the clinic prior to your appointment. Our fax number is 248-363-3455.

**Insurance & referrals**: Payment for professional services is expected at the time that services are rendered. This includes any insurance co-pay that may apply. **Click here** for a list of the health insurance plans that we participate in. You will be asked to show your insurance card(s) when you check in for your appointment.

If your insurance company requires a referral from your primary care physician, it is <u>your</u> responsibility to obtain the required referral at least 24 hours prior to your appointment. Your primary care physician may fax the referral to us at 248-363-3455 or you may hand carry it with you. Please note that the referral must be in our office when you arrive for your appointment.

We will assist you in determining your insurance benefits for allergy testing and/or immunotherapy before services are rendered. In order for us to provide this service for you, we appreciate receiving your completed <a href="Patient">Patient</a> <a href="Patient">Registration Form</a> at least 1 day before your appointment. If there is a telephone number on your card (frequently found on the back side of the card), please include that phone number, or, if possible, include a photocopy of the front & back of your insurance card with your registration form.

If you plan to pay cash for our services (un-insured or patients without allergy benefits), you may wish to contact The Allergy & Asthma Institute to discuss cost prior to your visit. For our patient's convenience, we accept cash, checks, Discover and Visa & MasterCard credit & debit cards.

We look forward to seeing you in at the Allergy & Asthma Institute of SE Michigan.