

# International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC

## VCS Testing

**Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS)** is a well-established, published, documented condition affecting millions of patients in the US alone. According to the Consensus Statement released November, 2015 by the Center for Research on Biotoxin Associated Illness, "Evidence supports a cause-effect relationship between exposure to the air and dust in **water-damaged buildings (WDBs)** and a chronic inflammatory response syndrome (CIRS) that is linked to certain HLA haplotypes. CIRS-WDB is mediated by an over-reactive innate immune response to the toxins, antigens, and inflammagens found in the interior environment of WDBs." Other causes of CIRS include Chronic Lyme Disease, Brown Recluse Spider Bites, Ciguatera Fish Poisoning, Pfisteria and other Cyanobacteria outbreaks. By far the most common cause is toxic mold and bacteria in a WDB.

**24 %** of the US population has the genetic susceptibility to **toxic molds and bacteria** from WDB's and **20%** has susceptibility to Borrelia (Lyme Disease). If exposed to these organisms, these patients have no effective innate immune response to identify and eliminate them. The result is chronic immune system inflammation and multiple brain and hormonal abnormalities. According to NIOSH, **50%** of the buildings in the US are WDB's. This may be up to 75% in SW Florida since **Hurricane Ian**. According to the CDC, 300,000 new cases of Lyme Disease were reported last year. Thus, there are a lot of potential patients with CIRS.

The **symptoms of Biotoxin Illness/CIRS** appear similar to other common conditions, including Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (now called Systemic Exertion Intolerance Disease), Autoimmune disorders, Neuropsychological disorders, and Leaky Gut Syndrome. Chronic pain is a common complaint among patients, which can be diffuse, such as in Fibromyalgia, or localized, such as in Myofascial Pain Syndrome and Leaky Gut Syndrome. Fatigue can be severe and debilitating. Sleep disorders, brain fog, headaches and strange neurological symptoms are common.

A screening test for CIRS exists. It is called **Visual Contrast Sensitivity (VCS)** testing. It is based on the fact that Biotoxins, such as toxic mold and bacteria, secrete a neurotoxin that affects the brain and retinal artery blood flow. This interferes with the ability to discriminate white and gray (contrast). While the VCS test was developed by the US military for jet pilots, it has been found to be useful in identifying CIRS patients. If the symptoms are present (multiple organ systems and multiple symptoms) and the VCS test is positive, even in one eye, there is a **98.5%** chance of having CIRS. This makes it one of the most accurate screening tests in medicine. **8%** of patients can be false negative, meaning they have the symptoms, but can pass the test. These tend to be younger people with an eye for details, like graphic designers, artists, baseball and tennis players.

**To take the VCS test**, go to <https://ichw.vctest.com> and register as a new user. You will be asked for a donation of **\$15.00** and should do that or they will not email the completed results to us.

When taking the test, **follow the instructions exactly**. You must have **good lighting** and your eyes must be **measured** from the screen as told. If you have glasses you wear for working on the computer or reading, use them. You must have **20/50 vision** or better for the test to be accurate. Don't make up or guess the answers to what you are shown; simply identify the direction the lines are going. If you can't see it, just say so. You will do each eye separately. You will be given a score by the website and a determination of the likelihood of Biotoxins present. The results we receive will give more detail and will be reviewed with you on your next visit.



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS, LLC.  
Alan W. Gruning, D.O.

NEW PATIENT HISTORY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # or the last 4 digits: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  M  F Dominant Hand :  R  L

Why are you here today? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Preventative Health: Please indicate the approximate date you last had the following:

Pap Smear \_\_\_\_\_ Colonoscopy \_\_\_\_\_ Chest X-Ray \_\_\_\_\_

Mammogram \_\_\_\_\_ Tetanus Injection \_\_\_\_\_ EKG \_\_\_\_\_

Bone Density \_\_\_\_\_ Recent Labs \_\_\_\_\_ Eye Exam \_\_\_\_\_

Prostate Exam \_\_\_\_\_ PSA \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wear:  Glasses  Contacts  Hearing Aids

Do you wear a brace or orthotic?  Yes  No Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Status:  Employed Type of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Unemployed  Retired  At home caregiver

Exercise:  Yes  No If yes, what type of exercise: \_\_\_\_\_

How often? \_\_\_\_\_ Duration: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you follow any special diet?  Yes (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 No

Do you take calcium?  Yes  No If yes, how much daily? \_\_\_\_\_

List any other dietary supplements: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC**  
 Alan W. Gruning, D.O.

**PAST MEDICAL HISTORY**  
 (Check all that apply)

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Brain Injury
- Hearing loss; ear: R L
- Dental Infections
- Low thyroid
- Diabetes, pills
- Asthma
- Rheumatic Fever
- High cholesterol
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Reflux (heartburn)
- Diverticulitis
- Colon polyps
- Kidney infection
- TIA
- Migraines
- Chemotherapy
- Sciatica
- Depression
- Chronic sleep disorder
- Other Illness: \_\_\_\_\_

- Visual Loss; Eye: R L
- Sinusitis, chronic
- Frequent throat infections
- High Thyroid
- Pneumonia
- COPD/emphysema
- Heart attack
- Angina
- Hiatal hernia
- Gall bladder disease
- Irritable Bowel
- Hemorrhoids
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Seizures
- Vertigo
- Radiation
- HIV
- Anxiety disorder
- Fibromyalgia

- Cataracts; eye: R L
- Allergies; nasal/sinus
- Thyroid goiter
- Diabetes, Insulin
- Collapsed lung: R L
- Tuberculosis
- High Blood Pressure
- Valve disease type: \_\_\_\_\_
- Rhythm problems, type: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pancreatitis
- Hepatitis, type: \_\_\_\_\_
- Kidney stones
- Stroke
- Paralysis, location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cancer, location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Blood disorder, type: \_\_\_\_\_
- Transfusion, year: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other psych. Disorder: \_\_\_\_\_
- Chronic pain, location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Disk injury, location: \_\_\_\_\_

List all **MEDICATIONS** you are taking: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List all **ALLERGIES**: \_\_\_\_\_

**Obstetrical History:** \_\_\_ # pregnancies \_\_\_ # Full Term  
 \_\_\_ # Premature \_\_\_ # Miscarriages \_\_\_ # Abortions  
 \_\_\_\_\_ First day last menstrual period

**Past Surgical History** – list all operations you have had: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Family History** – List all illnesses of blood relatives in your family: \_\_\_\_\_

**Social History** Single / Married / Divorced / Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you being physically, emotionally, or sexually abused: Y / N  
 Florida Hotline 800-500-1119, A.C.T. 239-939-3112  
 C.A.R.E. 941-627-6000

Tobacco Use: Y / N # years: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Smoke, packs per day \_\_\_  Chew, amount \_\_\_\_\_

**Alcohol Use:** Y / N Rare / Weekly / Daily  
 Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drug Use:** Y / N Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education** (highest completed): High School College  
 Vocational/Technical Graduate School Professional Degree

**Spiritual:** Do you attend religious services? Y / N  
 If yes, how often? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you pray? Y / N If yes, How frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

How important is religion to you? Not very / Somewhat / Very

**International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC**

Alan W. Gruning, D.O.

**REVIEW OF SYMPTOMS:**

*(check all that apply)*

Are you currently having any of the following symptoms?

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fever                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Chills                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight Loss                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal Sweats                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Generalized Weakness             | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Loss                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changing Vision                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Consciousness            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing loss or changes         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty speaking/swallowing    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth Sores                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinus / Nasal Congestion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest / Arm / Jaw Pain            | <input type="checkbox"/> Palpitations                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Short of breath when lying flat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short of Breath at night          | <input type="checkbox"/> Short of Breath w/activity       | <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen ankles                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calf pain while walking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cough                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain w/deep breath        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sputum production                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody or rust-colored sputum    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheezing                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Acid indigestion                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea / vomiting               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose Stools                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or tarry stools            | <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting blood                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constipation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow skin or eyes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinary frequency               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burning w/urination               | <input type="checkbox"/> Retention/hesitancy of urine     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal / penile discharge      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genital lesions                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Incontinence of urine            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain in joints                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joint swelling                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Warmth in joints                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Back pain                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neck pain                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Rash                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesions of skin                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masses under skin                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Infections in skin               | <input type="checkbox"/> Itching                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breast problems                   | <input type="checkbox"/> General or focal weakness        | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in mentation (thinking)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Numbness/tingling in arms or legs | <input type="checkbox"/> Involuntary movements            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ataxia or loss of balance       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headache                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tremors                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Depression                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal thoughts               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hallucinations                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing voices that aren't there | <input type="checkbox"/> Insomnia / sleep disorder       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Appetite                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thirst                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerance to cold             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerance to heat               | <input type="checkbox"/> Easy Bruising                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen Lymph Nodes             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding easily                   |   |  |

**SPIRITUAL NEEDS**

Do you have any spiritual needs that you would like addressed? Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any prayer requests? Yes / No \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: Patient or Legal Guardian Date

Please Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC

(Epworth Sleepiness Scale ESS)

The following questionnaire will help you measure your general level of daytime sleepiness. You are to rate the chance that you would doze off or fall asleep during different routine daytime situations. Answers to the questions are rated on a reliable scale called the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS). Each item is rated from 0 to 3, with 0 meaning you would never doze or fall asleep in a given situation, and 3 meaning that there is a very high chance that you would doze or fall asleep in that situation.

How likely are you to doze off or fall asleep in the following situations, in contrast to just feeling tired? Even if you haven't done some of these activities recently, think about how they would have affected you.

Use this scale to choose the most appropriate number for each situation:

- 0 = would never doze
- 1 = slight chance of dozing
- 2 = moderate chance of dozing
- 3 = high chance of dozing

It is important that you circle a number (0 to 3) on each of the questions.

Situation	Chance of dozing (0-3)			
Sitting and reading	0	1	2	3
Watching television	0	1	2	3
Sitting inactive in a public place—for example, a theater or meeting	0	1	2	3
As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break	0	1	2	3
Lying down to rest in the afternoon	0	1	2	3
Sitting and talking to someone	0	1	2	3
Sitting quietly after lunch (when you've had no alcohol)	0	1	2	3
In a car, while stopped in traffic	0	1	2	3
Total Score:				

Epworth Sleepiness Scale ©NW Johns. Reproduced with permission from the author.

Patient Name - Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC

### Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS)

The Fatigue Severity Scale (FSS) is a method of evaluating the impact of fatigue on you. The FSS is a short questionnaire that requires you to rate your level of fatigue.

The FSS questionnaire contains nine statements that rate the severity of your fatigue symptoms. Read each statement and circle a number from 1 to 7, based on how accurately it reflects your condition during the past week and the extent to which you agree or disagree that the statement applies to you.

- A low value (e.g., 1) indicates strong disagreement with the statement, whereas a high value (e.g., 7) indicates strong agreement.
- It is important that you circle a number (1 to 7) for every question.

#### FSS Questionnaire

During the past week, I have found that:	Disagree	Agree
1. My motivation is lower when I am fatigued.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
2. Exercise brings on my fatigue.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
3. I am easily fatigued.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
4. Fatigue interferes with my physical functioning.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
5. Fatigue causes frequent problems for me.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
6. My fatigue prevents sustained physical functioning.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
7. Fatigue interferes with carrying out certain duties and roles.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
8. Fatigue is among my three most disabling symptoms.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
9. Fatigue interferes with my work, family, or social life.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
<b>Total Score:</b>		

#### VISUAL ANALOGUE FATIGUE SCALE (VAFS)

Please mark an "X" on the number line which describes your global fatigue with 0 being worst and 10 being normal.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

Fatigue Severity Scale © Lauren B. Krupp. Reproduced with permission from the author.

Patient Name – Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# PATIENT QUESTIONNAIRE

*Updated for DSM-IV™*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEX:**  Male  Female

**TODAY'S DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This questionnaire will help in understanding problems that you may have. It may be necessary to ask you more questions about some of these items. Please make sure to check a box for every item.

<i>During the <b>PAST MONTH</b>, have you been bothered <b>A LOT</b> by...</i>			<i>During the <b>PAST MONTH</b>...</i>		
	Yes	No		Yes	No
1. stomach pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. constipation, loose bowels, or diarrhea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. back pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. nausea, gas, or indigestion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. pain in your arms, legs, or joints (knees, hips, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. feeling tired or having low energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. menstrual pain or problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. trouble sleeping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. pain or problems during sexual intercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. your eating being out of control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. headaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. little interest or pleasure in doing things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. chest pain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. "nerves" or feeling anxious or on edge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. fainting spells	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. worrying about a lot of different things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. feeling your heart pound or race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
11. shortness of breath	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
			21. have you had an anxiety attack (suddenly feeling fear or panic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			22. have you thought you should cut down on your drinking of alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			23. has anyone complained about your drinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			24. have you felt guilty or upset about your drinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			25. was there ever a single day in which you had five or more drinks of beer, wine, or liquor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Overall, would you say your health is:		
			Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Very good	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>	



# International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC

## Biotoxin Symptom Questionnaire

Please check **each** symptom you are experiencing:

Fatigue

Static shocks

Vertigo (Dizziness)

Weakness

Decreased ability to retain new knowledge

Tearing of eyes

Muscle aches

Disorientation

Headaches

Metallic taste

Light sensitivity

Impaired memory

Decreased ability to find words

Difficulty concentrating

Joint pains

Morning stiffness

Muscle cramps

Unusual skin sensitivity

Tingling

Shortness of breath

Sinus congestion

Cough

Excessive thirst

Confusion

Appetite swings

Difficulty regulating body temperature

Increased urinary frequency

Red eyes

Blurry vision

Night sweats

Mood swings

Ice-pick pains

Abdominal pain

Diarrhea

Numbness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PATIENT HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE (PHQ-9)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?  
(use "✓" to indicate your answer)

	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day
1. Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3
2. Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless	0	1	2	3
3. Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much	0	1	2	3
4. Feeling tired or having little energy	0	1	2	3
5. Poor appetite or overeating	0	1	2	3
6. Feeling bad about yourself—or that you are a failure or have let yourself or your family down	0	1	2	3
7. Trouble concentrating on things, such as reading the newspaper or watching television	0	1	2	3
8. Moving or speaking so slowly that other people could have noticed. Or the opposite—being so fidgety or restless that you have been moving around a lot more than usual	0	1	2	3
9. Thoughts that you would be better off dead, or of hurting yourself	0	1	2	3
	add columns	+	+	

(Healthcare professional: For interpretation of TOTAL, TOTAL: please refer to accompanying scoring card).

<b>10.</b> If you checked off any problems, how difficult have these problems made it for you to do your work, take care of things at home, or get along with other people?	Not difficult at all	_____
	Somewhat difficult	_____
	Very difficult	_____
	Extremely difficult	_____

**Adverse Childhood Experience Questionnaire for Adults**  
 California Surgeon General's Clinical Advisory Committee



Our relationships and experiences—even those in childhood—can affect our health and well-being. Difficult childhood experiences are very common. Please tell us whether you have had any of the experiences listed below, as they may be affecting your health today or may affect your health in the future. This information will help you and your provider better understand how to work together to support your health and well-being.

Instructions: Below is a list of 10 categories of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). From the list below, please place a checkmark next to each ACE category that you experienced prior to your 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Then, please add up the number of categories of ACEs you experienced and put the total number at the bottom.	
Did you feel that you didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, or had no one to protect or take care of you?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you lose a parent through divorce, abandonment, death, or other reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you live with anyone who was depressed, mentally ill, or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you live with anyone who had a problem with drinking or using drugs, including prescription drugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did your parents or adults in your home ever hit, punch, beat, or threaten to harm each other?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you live with anyone who went to jail or prison?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did a parent or adult in your home ever swear at you, insult you, or put you down?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did a parent or adult in your home ever hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt you in any way?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you feel that no one in your family loved you or thought you were special?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you experience unwanted sexual contact (such as fondling or oral/anal/vaginal intercourse/penetration)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Your ACE score is the total number of checked responses	

Do you believe that these experiences have affected your health?       Not Much       Some       A Lot

Experiences in childhood are just one part of a person's life story.  
 There are many ways to heal throughout one's life.

Please let us know if you have questions about privacy or confidentiality.

5/5/20

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC.**

Mailing Address:  
6900 Daniels Parkway  
Suite 29 PMB 173  
Fort Myers, FL 33912

Phone: 239-939-3303

**Consent for Email Communication**

I understand that there are security risks associated with sending Patient Health Information in emails. Although the email server for ICHW is encrypted and secure, I acknowledge that my personal email server and/or electronic device(s) may not be secure, and that is my responsibility. This lack of security in emails applies to any other unencrypted email that I give consent to use for communication.

If I choose email communication, I understand that there is a pass code required to access any email that is sent. This will be the last four digits of my social security number and must be on file prior to ICHW sending any emails. I understand that emails will be automatically deleted within 28 days from the recipients' email server. I have the option to download and save my emails.

I give consent for the following types of emails:

- to myself at the following email address \_\_\_\_\_
- to my attorney regarding my case. My attorney's name is \_\_\_\_\_
- to my auto insurance company which is \_\_\_\_\_

This authorization is for:

- one time use for
  - lab results
  - radiology report
  - other \_\_\_\_\_
- all future use until I revoke this authorization in writing. I must sign a new form if I retain/change an attorney or wish to use a new email.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## INFORMED CONSENT FOR TELEMEDICINE SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

* Patient Name:	
* Date of Birth:	Medical Record #:
Physician Name: <i>Dr. Alan Bruning</i>	Date Consent Discussed:
Location: <i>International Center For Health &amp; Wellness, Ft Myers, FL</i>	

Telemedicine is the use of electronic information and communication technologies by a healthcare provider to deliver services to an individual when he/she is located at a different location than the healthcare provider. This may be for the purpose of diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and/or education. During your telemedicine consultation, details of your medical history and personal health information may be discussed with you or other health professionals through the use of interactive video, audio or other telecommunications technology. Additionally, a physical examination of you may take place, and video, audio, and/or photo recordings may be taken.

All efforts will be made to utilize electronic systems with network and software security protocols to protect the privacy and security of health information and to safeguard the data against corruption. However, in order to ensure greater access to care while limiting the spread of COVID-19, the mode of communication used during your telehealth consultation may not be secure and may be subject to privacy risks.

### Anticipated Benefits:

- Improved access to medical care by enabling a patient to remain in his/her location while the healthcare provider provides care from a distant site
- Limiting the spread of COVID-19
- More efficient medical evaluation and management
- Ability to obtain consultation of a distant specialist
- Conservation of personal protective equipment such as gloves and masks to reduce shortages for healthcare providers

### Possible Risks:

As with any medical procedure, there are potential risks associated with the use of telemedicine. These risks include, but may not be limited to:

- In rare cases, it may be determined that the information transmitted is of poor quality, requiring a face to face visit or rescheduled telemedicine visit. This may cause a delay in medical evaluation/treatment.
- Security protocols could fail or not be available, causing a breach of privacy of personal medical information.
- In rare cases, a lack of access to all of your medical records may result in adverse drug interactions or allergic reactions or other judgment errors.

### By Signing this Form, I Understand the Following:

1. I understand that I may expect the anticipated benefits from the use of telemedicine in my care, but that no results can be guaranteed.
2. I understand that all efforts will be taken to protect the privacy and security of health information, and that no information obtained in the use of telemedicine which identifies me will be intentionally disclosed to researchers or other entities without my authorization.
3. I understand that during the COVID-19 Pandemic, security measures may be lessened in accordance with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure improved access to care.
4. I understand that I have the right to withhold or withdraw my consent to the use of telemedicine in the course of my care at any time without affecting my right to future care or treatment.
5. I understand there may be technological challenges that prevent recording the telemedicine interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic, but that I have the right to inspect all information obtained and successfully recorded and may receive copies of this information for a reasonable fee.
6. I understand that a variety of alternative methods of medical care may be available to me, and that I may choose one or more of these at any time. My healthcare provider has explained the alternative to my satisfaction.



# Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices Written Acknowledgement Form

## International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC.

I am a patient of International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC. I hereby acknowledge receipt of International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC.'s Notice of Privacy Practices.

Name [please print]: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I am a parent or legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ [patient name]. I hereby acknowledge receipt of International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC.'s Notice of Privacy Practices with respect to the patient.

Name [please print]: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC  
6900 Daniels Parkway  
Suite 29 PMB 173  
Fort Myers, FL 33912  
Phone: 239-939-3303 FAX: 239-939-7373

**PATIENT AUTHORIZATION FOR USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this authorization, I authorize: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Hospital/Physician)

to use and/or disclose certain protected health information (PHI) about me for the purpose of Medical Treatment to:

International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC  Self  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information to disclose:**

- Emergency department records, any X-Ray, MRI, Cat Scans, Lab Test, Physician Reports, Patient Demographics
- Complete Records
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

This authorization will expire on \_\_\_\_\_

I do not have to sign this authorization in order to receive treatment from International Center for Health & Wellness, LLC. In fact, I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization. When my information is used and or disclosed pursuant to this authorization, it may be subject to re-disclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by the federal HIPAA Privacy Rule. I have the right to revoke this authorization in writing except to the extent that the practice has acted in reliance upon this authorization. My written revocation must be submitted to the privacy officer at:

International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC  
6900 Daniels Parkway  
Suite 29 PMB 173  
Fort Myers, FL 33912

The Practice WILL NOT receive payment or other remuneration from a third party in exchange for using or disclosing the PHI.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature or Legal Guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to Patient

If this FAX is not received in its entirety please contact our office.

Note: The information contained in this facsimile may be privileged and confidential and protected from disclosure. If the reader of this facsimile is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, or other use of this facsimile is strictly prohibited. Please give directly to the person it is addressed to. If this fax is received in error, please notify our office immediately by telephone and destroy this facsimile. Thank you.

**International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC**

6900 Daniels Parkway, Suite 29-173

Fort Myers, Florida 33912

239.939.3303

**Patient Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to comply with the following in order to be a patient of International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC and Alan Gruning, DO:

1. Due to the complexity of caring for patients with Biotoxin Illness/CIRS and other serious conditions, I agree that I will **schedule** a visit to see Dr. Gruning at **least monthly** until he says my visits can be less often. I will be told at each visit when I am expected to return. I will **schedule** my next office visit with the front office staff **prior to leaving** or during the virtual visit follow up call from the staff.
2. I agree to schedule and complete **all recommended testing promptly**.
3. I will **notify** the office of the need for special attention due to an unexpected reaction, side effect, or worsening of my condition. It may take several days to respond to me. If I am having an **emergency**, I will call 911 or proceed to the closest hospital Emergency Department.
4. The office will be open **limited hours** as published and I will leave a voice message or email the staff with any urgent needs I have **during normal business hours from 11-5pm**. I understand it may take **5 business days** for a response.
5. **Prescription refill requests** should occur during my office visit. If I am running low on a medication, I understand that refill requests will require up to **5 business days** to be completed, so I will notify the office with plenty of advance notice. I understand that **prescriptions are only refilled for actively treating patients** that are complying with recommended testing and follow up visits.
6. I consent to be contacted by ICHW staff by **text and email**.
7. **Coordination of Care:** I consent for ICHW to coordinate my care with other professionals needed to treat my condition. I also consent to be entered into **Fullscript** and receive texts/emails so that I may order needed supplements and receive a discount.
8. I will treat all employees of ICHW with **respect, courtesy and professionalism**. If I do not, I will be discharged from the medical practice. Rude and abusive behavior **will not be tolerated**.
9. I understand that if Dr. Gruning **recommends another professional** to assist in my care (i.e. Indoor Environmental Professional, HVAC contractor, Remediation specialist), he and this practice have **no financial relationship** with that professional. I am free to choose **whoever I want to participate in my care**, but I will need to find a professional that is **at least as qualified and experienced** in the care of Biotoxin Illness/CIRS patients as the one recommended.
10. I understand that I need to **pay for services** provided at the time they are rendered by cash or credit card. My fees cover not only Dr. Gruning's time and expertise, but also the **office staff time spent** with me explaining testing, returning phone calls and email requests, record keeping, and the **generation of letters/reports**. I may be asked to schedule and pay for a **virtual or phone consultation** if I need extended time to answer my questions or explain test results.
11. Our **physician visit rates** (in person or virtual) are:  
400.00 for first visit to investigate and diagnose your condition (usually 1 hour or more)  
360.00 for second visit to review all test results and prescribe treatment (usually 1 hour)  
120.00 for each 20 minutes of follow up or phone visit

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC**

6900 Daniels Parkway, Suite 29-173

Fort Myers, Florida 33912

239.939.3303

## **Consent for Alternative Treatment**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, consent to have Alan W Gruning, DO and all healthcare providers employed by the International Center for Health and Wellness, LLC (ICHW) treat me for my conditions. I have sought treatment from ICHW because I have either failed standard medical treatments for my condition, and continue to be ill, or I desire a more holistic/functional medicine treatment approach for my conditions.

I give ICHW permission to treat me with alternative therapies for my conditions, which include but are not limited to Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome, Autoimmune Disorders, Environmental Toxicity such as Biotoxin Illness (Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome), Thyroid and Adrenal Disorders, and Hormone Imbalances. I will become knowledgeable about standard and alternative treatments for my conditions. I understand the treatments that ICHW provides are not guaranteed to cure my condition and may not help me. I do not hold ICHW, Dr. Gruning, and the healthcare providers of ICHW liable for any lack of progress, side effects of treatments, adverse outcomes, or unforeseen problems resulting from my treatment plan.

I consent to be a willing and compliant patient in the ICHW medical practice. I will obtain all requested diagnostic tests in a timely manner. I will adhere to the prescribed treatment plan. I will comply with all required appointments and I will schedule appointments as requested by ICHW.

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Patient Signature

Date