

# 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

## Federal Government Requirements

To All Our Valued Patients:

You will notice that we are asking more questions on our Patient Registration and Health History forms. We are required to collect this information by the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, also known as the 2009 Stimulus Bill. For example, we are required to ask your ethnicity and race. If you feel the questions are too invasive then please use the “Patient Declined” or “Unknown”.

You may also notice that some questions may not be directly related to your orthopaedic problem. Although the majority of your health history is relevant, some questions may not appear applicable to your care. Again, we are required to at least ask you these questions and to collect the information. Please feel free to answer the questions with “Patient Declined” or a similar answer if you object to the question.

Now for the good news! Our new Electronic Medical Record (EMR) has many new features including patient portal access, electronic medication prescribing, allergy alerts and other patient protection features.

- Internet Access-will soon offer you the ability to see your electronic medical record summary via the internet. This is why we are collecting your email address.
- Electronic Prescribing -sends non-narcotic prescriptions directly to your pharmacy of choice. Your prescription should be waiting for you at the pharmacy.
- Medication and Allergy Alerts- if you have a known allergy or medication allergy our EMR will check your new prescriptions against your known allergies and notify your doctor or pharmacist so your prescription can be changed to a safer alternative.

Thank you for your patience during the implementation of these new mandates.