

The Healthy Path, LLC
VALERIE L. RICHEY, MD, ND

CONSENT FOR MEDICAL CARE

I _____ (patient) understand that I have medical signs and symptoms that require medical diagnosis and medical treatment. This medical care may include routine and/or emergency diagnostic tests, genetic testing, medications, pharmaceutical antibiotics, natural antimicrobials, nutritional supplements, herbal products, and/or possibly other therapies and treatments as needed. I understand that any medical care may involve risks including, but not limited to, discomfort, pain, complications, injury, infection, anaphylaxis, organ damage, and even death. I understand that I may not benefit from any treatment and/or I may not fully or even partially recover. I acknowledge that no claims have been made regarding outcomes. Furthermore, I realize that insurance may not cover any part of my diagnosis or treatment.

Also, I understand that no medical care will be given until I have had opportunity to fully discuss such care with Dr. Richey. I may accept or refuse any medical care, and I agree to accept the consequences of my decisions. If I am unable to consent to medical care due to an emergency situation, I agree that Dr. Richey and/or her staff may provide appropriate medical care as needed.

I realize that my optimal medical care requires my honest and accurate reporting, and my cooperation and my compliance with all with treatment plans and testing requirements. I understand that I am an active participant in the diagnostic and therapeutic process. I agree that health is ultimately my responsibility.

I understand that Dr. Richey will act as a medical consultant only; she will NOT be acting as my primary care physician. She only performs naturopathic, integrative, and functional medicine. I am responsible for maintaining a relationship with my own traditional primary care physician for preventive medicine, hospitalizations, medical emergencies, and general medical care, etc.

I recognize that Dr. Richey is a certified Bredesen physician for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, and I realize that that this functional approach to dementia is individualized based on the experiences and knowledge of the physician.

In addition, Dr. Richey may believe that my signs and symptoms are related to Lyme disease and other tickborne infections. I understand that Lyme disease is controversial and political. Doctors differ in how they diagnose and treat Lyme disease due to the unavailability of ideal diagnostic testing, and the existence of conflicting treatment studies. I understand that no one conclusively knows the optimal treatment for a given individual with symptoms that persist with Lyme disease. Thus, there are two ideologies regarding Lyme disease: IDSA and ILADS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE SOCIETY OF AMERICA (IDSA)

Most doctors follow the treatment guidelines of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) at <http://www.idsociety.org/lymedisease.htm> . Insurance companies often pay for the IDSA approach.

These doctors rely primarily on the narrow CDC surveillance case criteria for diagnosis even though the CDC itself cautions against this approach. They may also require the presence of a typical bull's eye rash and/or a lengthy tick bite. These doctors may fail to diagnose many patients who actually have Lyme disease resulting in no or delayed treatment which may in turn cause considerable morbidity and mortality.

Also, these doctors believe that treatment should be short term only. They view any long term effects of Lyme disease as due to an autoimmune process or permanent damage that would be unaffected by antibiotics. These doctors may fail to adequately treat many patients who actually have active chronic Lyme disease infection resulting in further complications up to and including death.

INTERNATIONAL LYME AND ASSOCIATED DISEASES SOCIETY (ILADS)

Some doctors follow the guidelines of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) at <http://www.ilads.org> .

These doctors use broader clinical criteria as recommended by the CDC based on potential exposure to ticks, signs and symptoms, and clinical course. Also, they may use antibiotic responsiveness to assist in their diagnosis. In addition, they may use laboratory testing in a supportive role. These doctors may over diagnose Lyme disease.

Furthermore, these doctors believe that Lyme disease may be a chronic and persistent infection which is difficult to eradicate requiring long term treatment with prescription antibiotics (oral, intramuscular, or intravenous) often in high and/or combination doses and with off-label indications. The risk of side effects of antibiotics increases with their prolonged usage. Several clinical studies support long term antibiotic treatment while other studies do not. Although many patients improve with antibiotics, not everyone will do so. Inability to tolerate antibiotics or discontinuing antibiotics prematurely may make tick borne diseases worse. Supportive treatment may be required with or without antibiotics. Some of these doctors also use natural antimicrobials and/or supplements/herbs to enhance the healing process.

Since they believe that it is better not to miss a case of Lyme disease, these doctors may expose some patients to the risk of treatment when they actually do not have Lyme disease. Risks of prolonged antibiotic treatment includes, but is not limited to, pain, discomfort, anaphylaxis, yeast and/or bacterial overgrowth, internal organ damage, and death. Antibiotics may also cause Jarish-Herxheimer reactions resulting in any variety of symptoms due to microbial die off. Additional medications and/or treatment may be necessary to combat these side effects.

In addition, the ILADS approach does not conform to the IDSA approach. Thus, insurance companies may not pay for this medical treatment, and I will be responsible for the associated additional costs.

Dr. Richey has been trained by ILADS and is a member of ILADS.

MY CHOICE

I realize that the diagnosis and treatment approach for any acute or chronic infections, biotoxin illness, heavy metal toxicities, hormonal imbalance, nutritional deficiencies, dementia, and any other condition is my choice to make in consultation with my physician. Specifically, I have studied my options, and I have weighed the risks and benefits. I understand that I may obtain second and third opinions at any time from other medical specialists.

I give my consent for medical care by Dr. Richey including evaluation, diagnosis and treatment.

Signature/Date: _____