

Allergy, Asthma, Sinus & Immunology Center

Shawky A Hassan, M.D., Ph.D.

Home of Experienced care for all ages

DIPLOMAT OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY,
FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE AND AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, ASTHMA & IMMUNOLOGY, AND
THE SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED ALLERGISTS AND IMMUNOLOGISTS

NEW PATIENT BROCHURE

Welcome to our practice. We hope that reading this Brochure will put you at ease and make you feel at home. If you have any question, feel free to ask; we will always try to help in any way we can.

The Practice of Allergy: Allergy is a subspecialty of internal medicine and pediatrics. The most common allergic diseases that we care for are bronchial asthma, allergy in the nose and sinuses (Allergic Rhinitis and Sinusitis), hay fever, recurrent ear problems and infections, frequent respiratory tract infections, frequent colds, allergic eczema, hives, food allergy, allergy to insect bites, drugs and animal dander, allergy to the sun, headaches, inflamed eyes, sinus conditions, postnasal drainage, and chronic cough. We allocate a significant portion of our practice assuring the integrity of the immune system and diagnosing and caring for immune system diseases.

Our Allergist is a very qualified health professional, with extensive background of education and training to diagnose and treat your allergy related health problems with confidence and familiarity.

Dr. Shawky A. Hassan is an unusual health professional and have been a practicing allergist in Florida since 1990. He graduated from medical school in Cairo, Egypt, and served internship in Cairo University School of Medicine over 3000 beds hospitals. After one year of training in immunology in Paris, France, he immigrated to the United States. His post-graduate education was completed at several outstanding medical centers in the U.S. He obtained a Master degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, followed by a Doctoral Degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He had his fellowship training in Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Allergy & Immunology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He is certified by the American Board of Allergy and clinical Immunology. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and a Fellow of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and the American Association of Certified Allergists and Immunologists. He is a member of the American Medical Association and the state and local Medical Societies. He is engaged in continued medical education activities and have a special interest in teaching and pursuing medical research in his field.

Patient/ Physician Relationship: Dr. Hassan strongly believes that confidence, trust and mutual understanding are the basis of a successful doctor/patient relationship. For this reason, we strongly encourage you to ask questions about your medical care. This will help to alleviate any anxiety you may have. If the patient is young, parents can assist in establishing an easier relationship by preparing their child for the doctor's visit. Children can adapt if they know in advance what will happen. Every precaution is taken to avoid causing the young patient unusual discomfort or pain. We have found that telling the child that some pain may be felt during a particular procedure is more effective than telling the child that nothing will hurt whereas to him it may. Allergy skin testing is not painful; however, the restraint (20-30 minutes) required may be uncomfortable and cause apprehension in young children. Parental involvement and assistance is invaluable, and greatly appreciated.

Office Hours are 9AM- 5PM Monday through Friday. Feel free to call us during office hours. Our staff is trained to handle most of your needs, and if you need to speak to Dr. Hassan in person, you need only to ask. Allergy injections are given at appointed times, according to a posted schedule. At other times, prior

arrangement is required, because a doctor must be present when injections are given in our office. Any changes in the schedule will be posted in advance.

Telephone Calls: Our staff will handle all calls and answer any questions you may have. Dr, Hassan will return phone calls following his morning and afternoon appointments. If doctor Hassan is out of the office, you can be sure that our capable staff will relay your message and get back to you as soon as possible. If you have a health emergency, please don't delay. Go quickly or take the patient if the patient is not you, to the nearest emergency room. Always keep a list of emergency room and urgent care clinics numbers near your phone.

Who Should Accompany the Patient to the Office? Adult patients should come into the examination room alone to ensure undivided attention and confidentiality. If the patient is a minor, he or she must have a parent or an adult guardian. Spouses of patients are encouraged to attend specially at the treatment conference with the doctor so that they can be involved in the review of the allergy workup and treatment program. Allergic diseases affect the whole family; cooperation from every family member is necessary for successful treatment.

Smoking and pets Policy: Under no circumstances can any form of smoking or pets be allowed in the office.

Fees: The fee for the initial visit with the doctor is \$150.00 to \$350.00, depending on how extensive it is. Payment is requested when services are rendered. The charges for other office procedures will be given to you upon request before the services are rendered. We ask you to be aware of the charges before services are rendered. Because the Allergy Asthma Sinus & Immunology Center offers personalized custom treatment, the cost of the allergy workup varies depending on the specific patient needs, the number and type of allergy tests, the depth of the evaluation, and the need for outside laboratory tests. The treatment selection for your case will be discussed with you in advance. Please feel free to voice your questions and concerns at any time.

Insurance: Do not hesitate to ask our knowledgeable staff about any insurance concerns you may have. Please be aware that you are responsible for payment at the time of your visit except if prior arrangement has been made. Patients with insurance that we participate with including Medicare should check these insurance companies for details of coverage, co-pay and deductible amounts.

Medications and Prescriptions: Generic medications are safe and effective, however; in certain instances we prefer trademark medications. If you have financial difficulties in obtaining a certain medication, let us know, and we will do our best to assist you. If you use a medication regularly, please make sure to keep an ample supply on hand. All prescriptions cannot be given or renewed over the phone unless the patient has been seen by the doctor over the six months previously. **Do Not Allow Friends Or Family Members to Use Your Prescribed Medication!**

Medical Records:

Should the need arise to have information from you medical records transferred to another medical facility, we will need your written request and authorization. A copying and preparation fee may be required.

After Hour Coverage Referrals:

At the Allergy & Asthma Center, we limit our practice to allergy, asthma and immunology. It is important that each of our patients have a primary care physician such as a family physician, internist or pediatrician to care for conditions other than allergy, asthma and immunology, or if Dr,Hassan unavailable.

At the Allergy & Asthma Center, we always attempt to make ourselves as readily available to you as possible for emergencies that may occur after normal business hours. However, should you have an emergency and our doctors cannot be reached, you are instructed to go directly to the nearest emergency room and have the emergency room doctor contact your primary care physician, we will be happy to assist you in locating such a physician for you.

Tax Deductible Items:

During the course of the allergy treatment, certain expenses are incurred to control the environment of the patient and decrease exposure to allergens. These include (but are not limited to) air conditioners, filters, special respiratory equipment and the like. We can provide you with written verification for such purchases to use in preparing your tax returns.

Appointments:

Visits are by appointment only, and we do make every effort to adhere to our schedule. Sometimes, however, emergencies do occur and could result in delays. We appreciate your understanding when this occurs. Please let us know at least 48 hours in advance if you can not keep your appointment so that we may offer your appointment time to another patient.

New Patients:

When you arrive at our office you will be greeted by our receptionist. She will establish a chart and notify the nursing staff who will lead you to the examination area. Your vital signs will be recorded (pulse, temperature, respiration, blood pressure, weight, and height). Dr. Hassan and our staff will obtain a detailed history from you followed by a comprehensive physical examination with special emphasis on the eyes, ears, nose, throat, chest, lungs and skin. This comprehensive initial visit is an important session. It usually takes one hour. Information gathered at this time will help determine methods of diagnosis and treatment in your case.

Allergy Testing:

Approximately Eighty percent of patients we see need allergy testing. This is a helpful procedure to diagnose specific allergens and estimates the severity of the allergy. Allergy testing is not mandatory. The decision to do allergy testing is made jointly by the physician and patient after careful consideration. The allergy test consists of two (sometimes three) parts and are all done in our office in approximately 2 hours. You will be given all the details before you obtain an appointment to have the skin tests. After skin testing is completed you will be given the results of these tests. A treatment conference will be scheduled to outline for you the allergy treatment.

Treatment Conference:

After completion of the allergy evaluation, the physician will have a conference with you for approximately 30-60 minutes to outline your treatment program. The treatment conference is usually conducted in a subsequent visit after the skin tests are done. The recommendation of the treatment conference is given to you in writing and full consultation report is forwarded to you and your physician.

Miscellaneous Services:

If x-rays or Laboratory tests are needed, we will refer you to such facilities. Some tests are done in our office. These are mainly the specialty procedure such as examinations of the nasal cytology which allows us to differentiate between the presences of infection in your sinuses as opposed to allergic disease. Bacterial culture and sensitivity are helpful when the patient is acutely sick with a respiratory infection and allows us to detect the type of germ that caused your disease and helps in selecting the best antibiotic for your condition. We also evaluate lung volume and the speed at which air moves in and out of your lungs. This procedure is helpful for the diagnosis and follow-up of Bronchial Asthma, Emphysema, Bronchitis and Chronic Cough.

Immunotherapy:

If your allergy is significant enough to warrant immunotherapy, the antigen solution (called extract) is prepared in our office. You will need periodic refills, and these are best done during the progress visit. For those patients who come from distant areas, arrangements can be made with physicians in your area to give you the allergy injections. Many physicians in our city wish to administer the allergy shots in their offices. We pledge full cooperation when this is the case. The first injection of every extract must be given in our office to ensure patient safety. We do not mail extracts to patients or to other doctor's offices, it must be taken from our office in person.

We look forward to the opportunity to manage your health care matters and help you lead an active productive life.

Thank you.

Sincerely, from Dr. Hassan.