

## INFORMED CONSENT: Alpha Lipoic Acid Age Management of West Michigan

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_) consent to treatment with Alpha Lipoic Acid (ALA) by Age Management of West Michigan. In as much as I have indicated a desire to undergo intravenous treatment with ALA, the method of administration, the mechanisms of action, the purposes for its administration in my particular case; its potential for benefit, and its potential for harmful side effects have been fully explained to me by the medical staff at Age Management of West Michigan by direct discussions and/or written documentation. It is now my purpose to stipulate my full and complete understanding with reference to therapy, and to remove any legal liability on the part of the physician and AMWM staff in the event this treatment is unsuccessful.

Alpha Lipoic Acid reduces free radical damage and reduces oxidative stress to cellular DNA with the capacity to decrease mutation and cancer initiation through its powerful immune-boosting, anti-inflammatory and detoxification properties. It is able to induce apoptosis in malignant cells and regenerate other antioxidants like Glutathione, CoQ 10, Vitamin E & C. It has a strong ability to protect organs and tissues against the toxic effects of chemotherapy and radiation and has also been shown to reverse resistance to chemotherapy. It also supports energy production and protects mitochondria from oxidative stress.

There are hundreds of references in the medical literature regarding ALA. Many describe the benefits in cancer therapy, metabolic syndrome and diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, neurodegenerative brain disease, bone density, macular degeneration, migraine prevention, chelation of heavy metals, and maintaining healthy skin, and many other degenerative conditions involving free radical formation. ALA's value is not expressly recognized by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its use in medical treatment, either orally or by intravenous injection, is considered nonstandard treatment by the medical community with the exception of some physicians who practice integrative, functional or nutritional medicine.

### *Potential Risks, Adverse Reactions and Contraindications:*

Like any treatment, infusion therapy carries some risk of side effects. While adverse events are unusual, I understand that I could experience side effects, some of which are common such as discomfort at the infusion site or temporary bruising. Temporary discoloration and slight blistering may occur at the site of injection; all usually heal quickly. Thrombophlebitis, an inflammation of the vein, may also occur and could require treatment such as hot packs and bed rest. Sometimes blood may become trapped at the injection site; this is an anticipated occurrence and can easily be removed by your practitioner. Infection is also a remote possibility with any invasive procedure.

While ALA is a natural substance that is nontoxic, all treatment substances pose some risk of allergic reactions. Allergic reactions to the infusion substances are unusual and are usually restricted to the injection site. There is a mild risk of the following side effects: mild diarrhea, upset stomach, nausea, and joint pain. Some uncommon side effects of ALA are the following: headache, nausea, tingling sensation, bloating, muscle cramps, indigestion or heartburn, flushed face, chills, fever, mild stomach upset, and skin rash. ALA is not administered while a person is receiving chemotherapy since it may cause the chemotherapy to be less effective since ALA increases the liver's ability to process chemicals.

I understand that, as with any health treatment, there is no guarantee that I will obtain satisfactory results. If I am being treated for a medical condition, or have symptoms which suggest a medical condition may be present, I have been informed that it is in my best interest to discuss potential alternative methods of treatment for my condition with my primary care physician or an appropriate specialist before as well as during the course of treatments. I understand the use of this procedure does not preclude me from using other treatments as well, though I recognize that I should inform any practitioners I am seeing about the various treatments I am using.

Insurance companies are likely to consider this therapy to be non-covered as an experimental therapy, or to deny claims for this therapy as non-standard care or as not medically necessary. I understand that I am financially responsible for this therapy even if my insurer denies the claim for any reason.

I hereby consent to IV Alpha Lipoic Acid therapy and certify that I understand the nature of this treatment, including the risks of possible complications and choices I may have about other approaches, and I assume those risks about which I have been informed. I have been adequately informed, and questions I have asked have been satisfactorily answered. I represent that I am seeking treatment in order to further my own health and for no other reason and do not represent a third party. I am aware that I may withdraw this consent and stop treatment at any time.

Age Management of West Michigan cannot offer this procedure to you except upon the condition that you release Age Management of West Michigan and its physicians and staff from any legal responsibility for harm resulting from the use of Alpha Lipoic Acid and your signature on this informed consent will constitute a full and final release of our medical-legal responsibility resulting from the administration of Alpha Lipoic Acid.

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_