

The Forum by Texas Health - Privacy and Confidentiality Policy

Vision Critical is a third-party provider that processes data for Texas Health. Texas Health is the owner and sponsor of forumbytexashealth.com and complies with federal standards for the privacy and confidentiality of health care information. The database and software components are structured to provide that maintenance and routine troubleshooting occur with no access to your personal information. A security system helps protect against unauthorized access or misuse by authorized users.

All forms that request personal information (name, address, e-mail address, etc.) employ the https communications protocol to ensure secure and encrypted transmissions over the Internet.

Access and Disclosure

forumbytexashealth.com does not disclose or provide access to any personal information to anyone without your permission, unless ordered to do so by a court of law or otherwise required by law. There may be isolated instances in which the staff must access the database to repair problems. Any access to individual files is carefully controlled. Staff members must document the need for access, log details of the access when complete, and confirm to management that they have accessed only task-critical areas and are in compliance with confidentiality policies.

Texas Health reserves the right to remove community members and their ability to access or comment on information provided through this site.

Links to Third Party Sites

Please read the Privacy Statements/Policies of our affiliates which are external to the forumbytexashealth.com website. If you choose to conduct an online transaction with one of these companies, you may be required to submit personally identifiable information (PII). This PII is not kept or stored by Texas Health Resources. Texas Health has no control of how information is handled by these sites. Please read the privacy policy of the respective partner to understand how your PII may be disclosed, contained and maintained.

The forumbytexashealth.com Internet site may contain links to other Internet sites ("Linked Sites"). Links are strictly for informational purposes, and the appropriateness of such links is based on the judgment of the forumbytexashealth.com Internet Work Group. The Linked Sites are most likely not under the control of Texas Health Resources, and Texas Health Resources is not responsible for the content of any Linked Site that it does not control, including without limitation any link contained in a Linked Site, or any changes or updates to a Linked Site. Texas Health Resources is not responsible for webcasting or any other form of transmission received from any Linked Site. Texas Health Resources provides these links as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement of the site by Texas Health Resources or any association with its operators.

Linked sites will open in a new browser window, clearly indicating to users that they are leaving the forumbytexashealth.com Internet site.

Texas Health Resources annually re-evaluates all external health related websites to which it links.

Passive Tracking Mechanisms

forumbytexashealth.com is firmly committed to protecting the privacy of website visitors.

forumbytexashealth.com uses Web logs and temporary Internet cookies to gather aggregate, not individual data, about site visitors.

The following information is contained in these Web logs:

- The date and time of the visit as well as length of stay

- The pages of forumbytexashealth.com viewed during the visit
- The IP address of the computer used to visit the site
- The type of Web browser and operating system used to view the site

forumbytexashealth.com uses Web logs as a way of conducting basic market research and to study how the site is being used. forumbytexashealth.com periodically analyzes the Web logs and may implement improvements or refinements based on information in the Web logs.

Cookies are packets of information that a website transfers to a user's computer for record-keeping purposes. They are a means of keeping track of a user's preferences during a visit to a Web site. forumbytexashealth.com employs temporary cookies. No cookies are used to track an identifiable individual's movement through the site. They are only used to enhance the usability and efficiency of forumbytexashealth.com. Temporary cookies expire after a user ends a session and closes the Web browser.

If you do not want information to be collected via cookies, you can turn off cookies in your browser. To turn off cookies in Microsoft Internet Explorer, choose Tools from the top navigation, select Internet Options, choose Privacy and change the settings for forumbytexashealth.com. Information on forumbytexashealth.com may be read with cookies turned off.

Spyware

forumbytexashealth.com does not deploy spyware or any software that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge and which may send such information to another entity without the consumer's consent.

Site Sponsorship

Texas Health Resources is the sole sponsor of all content on forumbytexashealth.com. No other company or organization contributes funding for the site.

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