

Southwest Neurosurgical Associates
Andrew K. Metzger, M.D.
8080 Academy Rd NE Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Phone: 505-244-0080 Fax: 505-244-9048
www.swnsa.com

We would like to welcome you to our practice, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Our goal is to address whatever neurosurgical problems you might have with compassion, efficiency, and state-of-the-art care.

Because there is a shortage of neurosurgeons in the state of New Mexico, we at times need to reschedule appointments due to emergencies that arise. Regretfully, this is sometimes on short notice. We therefore encourage you to provide us with a cell or other daytime phone number so that we may reach you in case your appointment needs to be rescheduled either for later the same day or on a different day. Please feel free to call us within a few hours of your scheduled appointment to make sure that we are running on time. Many times we are **not** running on schedule due to being in surgery, taking emergency room call for the hospital or dealing with unavoidable emergent matters. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience rescheduling may cause, as we know your time is valuable.

Please make sure you bring the following with you to your appointment:

- Your insurance cards
- All radiographic studies (MRI, x-rays) that you have had of your lumbar spine. The radiology report cannot substitute for this and we need the actual images. These are usually provided to you by the imaging center on a CD so please make sure you bring the CD to the appointment if you haven't already brought it to our office previously.
- **We also are enclosing an order for weight bearing plain x-rays of your lumbar spine with flexion and extension views. Please go to an x-ray facility prior to your appointment, obtain these films, and bring the CD of these studies to your appointment (in addition to the MRI).**
- A list of all medications you are presently taking
- All medical records regarding past treatment of your spine.

The above items are necessary for surgery and if they are not available at the time of your appointment we may need to reschedule you to a later date.

If you would like to know more about Dr. Metzger and our practice, please go to www.swnsa.com. On our web site you will find under the "Your Appointment" page a list of links to download our Patient History Forms and other paperwork that must be completed prior to your appointment. You may wish to print and complete these at home, and bring them with you to our office on the day of your appointment. Alternatively, we will provide you the paperwork to complete on the day of your appointment.

If you should have any questions about the above, please call our office.

Sincerely,

Southwest Neurosurgical Associates