APPENDIX B.
Sample FAQ for patients undergoing reconstruction after skin cancer resection

1. How should I plan to manage discomfort and pain after the procedure?
   Your physician and you should create a pain management strategy on which you both can agree. The use of over-the-counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen is encouraged. A few patients may occasionally use a narcotic pain medication, the potential risks should be outweighed with the inability for a non-narcotic pain medication to be adequate.

2. Will I be taking oral antibiotics after my procedure?
   Typically, oral antibiotics will not be prescribed; however, your doctor may order antibiotics in some unique circumstances to mitigate the risk of infection.

3. Should I continue to take my blood thinners around the time of the procedure?
   In most cases, the use of anti-clotting agents will not be discontinued (as discussed previously in recommendation 4) However, please consult with your primary care physician, cardiologist, and physician performing your reconstruction.

4. What type of reconstruction is best for me?
   The surgical options for repair should be discussed with your physician with the risks, benefits and alternatives considered.

5. When will I return for follow-up?
   Follow-up will vary depending on the use of permanent or absorbable suture materials as well as the protocol as based on your reconstructive team’s standards.

6. How can I prevent excessive swelling and bruising?
   Postoperative swelling around the surgical site as well as bruising will vary depending on the extent and location of your surgery. The use of ice is a possible option that you should discuss with your physician. Swelling may not resolve for weeks, with a final result from your procedure not being visible for months.

7. When can I return to my normal daily activities?
   You should discuss your limitations in activity with your physician as your ultimate outcome may be affected in some situations by excessive activity or exercising.

8. What is the typical timeline for sutures to be removed?
   Sutures are often removed in the postoperative visits generally ranging between 5-10 days after surgery; however, absorbable sutures may be used which would not require removal. Please consult with your physician regarding the management of the site of your reconstruction after surgery.

9. When should I plan to return to work?
   It is important to discuss with your physician when you should be expected to return to work and when limitations of heavy lifting would be removed.