

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Revision Date: February 10, 2010

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Privacy Officer of our office at ___-___-____.

YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION. We create a record of the care and services you receive at this office. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care maintained by this office, and to our employees and healthcare professionals entering information in your record. Other physicians or health care providers that you use may have different policies or notices regarding the use and disclosure of your medical information. This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information. We are required by law to (1) make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private; (2) give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you; and (3) follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU. The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose medical information. "Use" is what we do with your information in this office. "Disclose" means sharing your information with others outside this office. All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

- **For Treatment.** We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, office staff or other medical personnel who are involved in your care.
- **For Payment.** We may use and disclose medical information about you as reasonably necessary in billing and collecting from you, an insurance company or a responsible third party.
- **For Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose medical information about you as reasonably necessary to run the office and make sure our patients receive quality care.
- **Appointment Reminders.** We may contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment.
- **Treatment Alternatives.** We may tell you about treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.
- **Health-Related Benefits and Services.** We may tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.
- **Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** We may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. We may also tell your family or friends your condition and that you are in a hospital. In addition, we may disclose medical information about you to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.
- **Research.** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose medical information about you for research purposes.
- **As Required By Law.** We will disclose medical information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.
- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose medical information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threatened harm.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS.

- **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may release medical information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.
- **Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release medical information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- **Workers' Compensation.** We may release medical information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- **Public Health Risks.** We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the prevention or control of disease, injury or disability; reporting of births and deaths, child abuse or neglect, reactions to medications or problems with products; and notification of people of recalls of products they may be using, a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition, the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make the last disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.
- **Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law.
- **Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose medical information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose medical information about you in response to a subpoena.
- **Law Enforcement.** We may release medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official (1) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; (2) about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; (3) about criminal conduct at the office; or (4) in emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

- **Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release your medical information to a coroner or medical examiner.
- **National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release medical information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.
- **Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU. You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

- **Right to Inspect and Copy.** With limited exceptions, you have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. We will select a licensed health care professional to review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.
- **Right to Amend.** If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for this office. To request an amendment, complete and submit an AMENDMENT REQUEST form to the Privacy Officer. We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that: (1) was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment; (2) is not part of the medical information kept by or for the office; (3) is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or (4) is accurate and complete.
- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” This is a list of the disclosures we made of medical information about you. To request this list, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, electronically). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at the time before any costs are incurred.
- **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. **Except in limited circumstances, we are not required to agree to your request.** We must agree to your request if the restriction is only on disclosure of PHI to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations and the restricted PHI only pertains to a health care item or service for which Practice has been paid out of pocket in full. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you may complete and submit the REQUEST FOR LIMITATION AND RESTRICTION OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION to the Privacy Officer. We will not ask you the reason for your request. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.
- **Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. To request confidential communications, you may complete and submit the PATIENT'S REQUEST TO LIMIT CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS to the Privacy Officer. We will not ask you the reason for your request. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.
- **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact the Privacy Officer.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE. We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a summary of the current notice in the office. The summary will contain, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date. You are entitled to a copy of the current notice in effect.

COMPLAINTS. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with the office, contact the Privacy Officer. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

OTHER USES OF MEDICAL INFORMATION. Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.