



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a federal program that requires that all medical and dental records and other individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by us in any form, whether electronically, on paper or orally, are kept properly confidential. This Act gives you, the patient, significant new rights to understand and control how your health information is used. HIPAA provides penalties for covered entities that misuse Protected Health Information (PHI).

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your Protected Health Information (PHI) to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations (TPO) and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. "Protected health information" is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

Your Protected Health Information may be used and disclosed by our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for providing health care services to you, to pay your health care bills, to support the operation of the practice, and any other use required by law.

Treatment: We will use and disclose your Protected Health Information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third party. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred to ensure that the health care professional has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you.

Payment: Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for health care services. For example, obtaining approval for a hospital stay may require that your relevant protected health information be disclosed to the health plan to obtain approval for the hospital admission.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose, as-needed, your protected health information to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information to support the business activities of this practice. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you that you are eligible to receive more supplies per your insurance's guidelines. We may call your home and leave a message (either on an answering machine or with the person answering the phone) to remind you that you are able to receive replacement supplies or a replacement device. If you would prefer that we call or contact you at another telephone number or location, please let us know.

We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your authorization:

As Required by Law	Required Uses and Disclosures	Funeral Directors
Public Health Issues	Food and Drug Administration	Organ Donation
Communicable Diseases	Legal Proceedings	Research
Health Oversight	Law Enforcement	Criminal Activity
Abuse or Neglect	Coroners	Military Activity and National Security
Workers' Compensation	Inmates	



Under the law, we must make disclosures to you and when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of HIPAA. Other permitted and required uses and disclosures will be made only with your consent, authorization or opportunity to object unless required by law. You may revoke this authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that our office has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

Your Rights as a Patient

You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information. Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records: psychotherapy notes, information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, and protected health information that is subject to law that prohibits access to protected health information.

You have the right to request a restriction of your health information. This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction and to whom you want the restriction to apply.

Our office is not required to agree to a restriction you may request. If your physician believes it is in your best interest to permit use and disclosure of your protected health information, your protected health information will not be restricted. You then have the right to use another Healthcare Professional or Healthcare Provider.

You have the right to request to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. You can make this request at any time, in writing, except to the extent that our office has already provided service or communication in transmittal or transit to a previously approved location.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us. We will provide this to you at the time of enrollment, and upon your request, even if you have agreed to accept this Notice alternatively (i.e. electronically). This notice is posted on our website at

You may have the right to have our office amend your protected health information. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your protected health information. You must submit this request in writing to our office and allow us a reasonable amount of time for processing your request.

We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and will inform you of any changes. You then have the right to object or withdraw as provided in this notice.

Complaints

You may complain to us or to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. You may file a complaint with us by notifying our privacy officer of your complaint using the main telephone number listed below. **We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.**

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