

## Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how medical information about you maybe used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

We are required by law to provide you with this notice that explains our privacy practices with regard to your medical information and how we may use and disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment and for health care operations, as well as for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. You have certain rights regarding the privacy of your protected health information and we also describe them in this notice.

**Request Amendment** You have the right to request that we amend your medical information if you feel that it is incomplete or inaccurate. You must make this request in writing to our practice manager, stating exactly what information is incomplete or inaccurate and your reasoning that supports your request.

We are permitted to deny your request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support your request. We may also deny your request if:

- The information was not created by us, or the person who created it is no longer available to make the amendment;
- The information is not part of the record which you are permitted to inspect and copy;
- The information is not part of the designated record set kept by this practice;

or if it is the opinion of the health care provider that;

- The information is accurate and complete

### Uses or Disclosures Not Covered

Uses or disclosures of your health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us may only be made with your written authorization. You may revoke such authorization in writing at any time and we will no longer disclose health information about you for the reasons stated in your written authorization. Disclosures made in reliance on the authorization prior to the revocation are not affected by the revocation.

### Ways in Which We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information:

The following paragraphs describe different ways that we use and disclose your protected health information. We have provided an example for each category, but these examples are not meant to be exhaustive. We assure you that all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose your health information fall within one of these categories.

**Treatment** We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. We will also disclose your health information to other physicians who may be treating you. Additionally, we may from time to time disclose your health information to another physician who we have requested to be involved in your care. For example - we may include information to a specialist to whom we have referred you for a diagnosis to help in your treatment.

**Payment** We will use and disclose your protected health information to obtain payment for the health care services we provide you. For example – we may include information with a bill to a third-party payer that identifies you, your diagnosis, procedures performed, and supplies used in rendering the service.

**Request Restrictions** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation of how we use or disclose your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. For example – you could request that we not disclose information about a prior treatment to a family member or friend who may be involved in your care or payment of care. Your request must be made in writing to our practice manager.

We are not required to agree to your request if we feel that it is in your best interest to use or disclose that information. However, if we do agree, we will comply with your request unless that information is needed for emergency treatment.

**An Accounting of Disclosures** You have the right to request a list of disclosures of your health information that we have made outside of our practice that were not for treatment, payment, or health care operations. Your request must be made in writing and must state the time period for the requested information. You may not request information for any dates prior to April 14, 2003 (the compliance date for the federal regulation) nor for a period of time greater than six years (our legal obligation to retain information.)

**Health Care Operations** We will use and disclose your protected health information to support the business activities of our practice. For example – we may use medical information about you to review and evaluate our treatment and services or to evaluate our staff's performance while caring for you. In addition, we may disclose your health information to third party business associates who perform billing, consulting, or transcription services for our practice.

### **Other Ways We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information**

**Appointment Reminders:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to contact you as a reminder about scheduled appointments or treatment.

**Treatment Alternatives:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to tell you about or recommend alternative treatments or options that may be of interest to you.

**Others Involved in Your Care:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to a family member, a relative, a close friend or any other person that you identify that is involved in your medical care or payment for care.

**Research:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to researchers provided the research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

**As Required by Law:** We will use and disclose your protected health information when required to by federal, state, or local law. You will be notified of any such disclosures.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Public Health or Safety:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is permitted to collect or receive the information for the purpose of controlling disease, injury, or disability. If directed by that health authority, we will also disclose your health information to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

**Worker's Compensation:** We will use and disclose your protected health information for worker's compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work related injuries or illness.

### **Your Health Information Rights**

Although your health record is the physical property of the health care practitioner or the facility that compiled it, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

**A Paper Copy of this Notice:** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice upon request. You may obtain a copy by asking our receptionist at your next visit or by calling and asking us to mail you a copy.

**Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to inspect and copy the protected health information that we maintain about you in our designated record set for as long as we maintain that information. This designated record set includes your medical and billing records, as well as any other records we use for making decisions about you. Any psychotherapy notes that may have been included in records we received about you are not available for your inspection or copying by law.

*We may charge you a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies used in fulfilling you requests.*

### **For More Information**

If you have questions or would like additional information, you may contact our office at the telephone number below.