



HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

The notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations, and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information (PHI). "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 services.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

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

Treatment

We will use and disclose your PHI 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, we would disclose your PHI, as necessary, to a home health agency that provides care to you or your PHI may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred to ensure that the physician has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you.

Payment

Your PHI will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. For example, obtaining approval for a hospital stay or other pre-certifications of services may require that your relevant health care information be disclosed to a health plan.

Health Care Operations

We may use or disclose, as needed, your PHI in order to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to: quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of medical students, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. For example, we may use a sign-in-sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may also call you by name in the reception area. We may also disclose your PHI to contact you to remind you of your appointment.

Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures

We may use or disclose your PHI in the following situations without your authorization: as required by law, public health issues as required by law, communicable diseases, health oversight, abuse or neglect, Food and Drug Administration requirements, legal proceedings, law enforcement, coroners, funeral directors, organ donation, research, criminal activity, military and national security activities, worker's compensation, inmates. Under the law, we must make disclosures to you when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of Section 164.500. 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 your physician or the physician's practice has taken action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to copy and inspect 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 PHI that is subject to law that prohibits access to PHI.

You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information. This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your PHI for the purpose of treatment, payment or health care operations. You may also request that any part of your PHI not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply. Your physician is not required to agree to the requested restriction. If the physician believes that it is not in your best interest, your PHI will not be restricted. You then have the right to use another health care practitioner.

You have the right to request to receive confidential communication from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. You also have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice from us, upon request, even if you have agreed to accept this notice alternatively i.e. electronically.

You have the right to have your physician 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 also have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your PHI.

Complaints: You may complain to us or to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

We have the right to change the terms of this notice and will inform you by mail of any changes. You then have the right to object or withdraw as provided in this notice. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of, and provide individuals with, this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. If you have any objections to this form, please feel free to contact us in person or by phone.

Signature below is only acknowledgment that you have received our Notice of Privacy Practices.

Signature _____ Print Name _____ Date _____