

Notice of Privacy Policy

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH 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) requires that health providers keep your medical and dental information private. The privacy practices described are currently in effect. We reserve the right to change our privacy practices, and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by law. If changes are made, a new Notice of Privacy policy will be provided to patients. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

The following describes how information about you may be used in this office:

Treatment Services: We may use or disclose your health information to all of our staff members, dentists, your physicians, and/or other health care providers taking care of you.

Payment and Health Care Operations: We may use or disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you, to participate in quality assurance, disease management, training, licensing, and certification programs. Upon your written request, we will not disclose to your health insurer any services paid by you out of pocket.

- **Appointment Reminders:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders such as voicemail messages, text messages, emails, postcards, or letters.
- **Legal Requirements:** We may use or disclose your health information when required to do so by law.
- **Abuse or Neglect:** If abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected, we may use or disclose your health information to the appropriate governmental authorities.
- **National Security:** When required, we may disclose military personnel health information to the Armed Forces. Information may be given to authorized federal offices when required for intelligence and national security activities. Health information for inmates in custody of law enforcement may be provided to correctional institutes.
- **Family Members, Friends, and Others Involved in Care:** At your request, we may disclose your health information to a family member or other person if necessary to assist with your treatment and/or payment for services. Based on our judgement and as per 164.522(a) of HIPAA we may disclose your information to these persons in the event of an emergency situation. We also may make information available so that another person may pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, records, or x-rays for you. Your information may be disclosed to assist in notifying a family member, caregiver, or personal representative of your location, condition, or death.
- **Business Associates:** Some services in our organization are provided through contacts with business associates. Examples include practice management software representatives, accountants, answering service personnel, etc. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health information to our business associates so that they can perform the job we have asked them to do and bill you or your third-party payer for services rendered. All of our business associates are required to safeguard your information and to follow HIPAA Privacy Rules.
- **Workers' Compensation:** We may release medical information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses.
- **Public Health Activities:** We may use or disclose your health information for public health activities, to include the following: to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability; to report reactions with medications or problems with products, to notify people of recalls of products they may be using; to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or who may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease of condition; to notify the proper government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence (when required by law).
- **Other Authorizations:** In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us authorization, you may revoke it at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.
- **Breach Notification:** We will notify you any time your PHI may have been compromised through unauthorized acquisition, use or disclosure.

PATIENT RIGHTS

- **Access:** You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies. You are not entitled to originals, only copies. Postage will be added if copies are to be mailed.
- **Alternative Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. (You must make your request in writing.) Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.
- **Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing, and must explain the reason for the amendment.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our Privacy Policy or have questions or concerns, please contact us at 908-925-2111. If you have concerns relating to a perceived violation of your privacy rights at 908-925-2111.

Patient Signature _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____