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813-994-2735 fax

Notice of Health Information Privacy Practices

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

Introduction

This practice is committed to treating and using protected health information about you responsibly. This Notice of Health Information Practices describes the personal information we collect and how and when we use or disclose that information. It also describes your rights as they relate to your protected health information. This Notice is effective October 1, 2002 and applies to all protected health information as defined by federal and state regulations.

Understanding Your Health Record/Information

Each time you visit our office a record of your visit is made. This record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. This information, referred to as your health or medical record, serves as a:

- Basis for planning your care and treatment
- Means of communication among the health professionals who contribute to your care
- Legal document describing the care you received
- Means by which you or a third-party payer can verify that services billed were actually provided
- A tool in educating health professionals
- A source of data for medical research
- A source of information for public health officials with improving the health of this state and the nation
- A source of data for our planning and marketing, with your authorization

 A tool with which we can assess and continually work to improve the care we render and the outcomes we achieve

Understanding what is in your record and how your health information is used helps you to: ensure its accuracy, better understand who, when, where, and why others may access your health information, and make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the physical property of this practice, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Obtain a paper copy of this "Notice of Information Privacy Practices" upon request
- Inspect and copy your health record as provided for in 45 CFR 164.524
- Amend your health record as provided in 45 CFR 164.528
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information as provided in 45 CFR 164.528
- Request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations
- Request a restriction on certain uses or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken

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My Responsibilities:

I am required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information
- Provide you with this notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information I collect and maintain about you
- Abide by the terms of this notice
- Notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction
- Accommodate reasonable requests you may have to communicate
- Health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

I reserve the right to change my practices and to make the new provisions effective for all protected health information I maintain. Should my information practices change, I will post the changes in my reception area. At your request and expense, I will provide a revised "Notice of Patient Privacy Practices" to the address you have supplied me. I will not use or disclose your health information, except as described in this notice. I will also discontinue to use or disclose your health information after I have received a written

revocation of the authorization according to the procedures included in the authorization.

For More Information or Report a Problem:

If you have any questions, would like additional information or wish to report a problem, please contact the practice's Privacy Officer so we will help you. We will take all reasonable steps to see that your concerns are addressed.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a complaint with the practice's Privacy Officer, or with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint with either the Privacy Officer or the Office for Civil Rights. The address for the OCR is listed below:

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 509F, HHH Building
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201