

## **HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices**

**For Treatment.** I may use health information about you to provide you with health care treatment or services. We may disclose health information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, health students, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you. They may work at our offices, at the hospital if you are hospitalized under our supervision, or at another doctor's office, lab, pharmacy, or other health care provider to whom we may refer you for consultation, to take x-rays, to perform lab tests, to have prescriptions filled, or for other treatment purposes.

For Payment: I may use and disclose health information about you so that the treatment and services you receive from us may be billed to and payment collected from you, an insurance company, or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about your office visit so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the visit. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.

**For Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose health information about you for operations of our health care practice. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our practice and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care.

**Appointment Reminders:** I may use and disclose health information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment. We will disclose as little health information as possible within this reminder.

As Required By Law. I will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose health information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

**Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces or separated/discharged from military services, we may release health information about you as required by military command authorities or the Department of Veterans Affairs as may be applicable. We may also release health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authorities.

**Public Health Risks.** We may disclose health information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following: • to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; • to report births and deaths; • to report child abuse or neglect; • to report reactions to medications or problems with products; • to notify people of recalls of products they may be using; • to notify person or organization required to receive information on FDA-regulated products; • to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; • to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

**Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

**Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health information about you in response to a

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subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement. We may release health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official: • in reporting certain injuries, as required by law, gunshot wounds, burns, injuries to • perpetrators of crime; • in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; • to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person: - Name and address - Date of birth or place of birth; - Social security number; - Blood type or Rh factor; - Type of injury; - Date and time of treatment and/or death, if applicable; and - A description of distinguishing physical characteristics. • about the victim of a crime, if the victim agrees to disclosure or under certain limited • circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; • about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; • about criminal conduct at our facility; and • in emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims;

**Coroners, Health Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release health information to a coroner or health examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release health information about patients to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

**National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release health information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

**Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release health information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution. Research.

## YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

You have the following rights regarding health information we maintain about you:

**Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy health information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes health and billing records. State law allows medical facilities to charge reasonable copying fees when information is requested for non-healthcare related purposes. This does not include psychotherapy notes. To inspect and copy health information that may be used to make decisions about you, you must submit your request in writing to Hilary Morris. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies and services associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances.

**Right to Amend.** If you feel that health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as we keep the information. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing, submitted to Hilary Morris and must be contained on one page of paper legibly handwritten or typed in at least 10 point font size. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request for an amendment. I may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request.

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**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request a list accounting for any disclosures of your health information we have made, except for uses and disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations, as previously described. To request this list of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to Hilary Morris.

**Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the health information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we restrict a specified nurse from use of your information, or that we not disclose information to your spouse about a surgery you had. We are not required to agree to your request

for restrictions if it is not feasible for us to ensure our compliance or believe it will negatively impact the care we may provide you. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about health matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail to a post office box.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice at any time.

## **CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE**

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for health information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice in our facility.

**COMPLAINTS** If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us or with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies, Mental Health Board.

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of this Notice** I will request that you sign a separate form acknowledging you have received a copy of this notice.

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