

Privacy Policy

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

Physicians have always protected the confidentiality of health information by sealing medical records away in filing cabinets and refusing to reveal your information to parties other than you have authorized. State and federal guidelines now also attempt to insure the confidentiality of sensitive information.

The federal government recently published regulations designed to protect the privacy of your health information. This "privacy rule," mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act of 1996 (HIPAA), protects health information that is maintained by physicians, hospitals, health care providers and health plans. It protects virtually all patients regardless of where they live or where they receive healthcare. All health information, including paper records, oral communications and electronic transactions are protected by the Act. Below are some examples of the ways in which the law allows us to disclose your confidential information:

- For treatment, payment or administration related to treatment or payment.
- For judicial administration, health oversight, research, law enforcement or public health release.
- To coroners, medical examiners or funeral directors to identify a deceased individual, determine a cause of death or for other duties as required by law.
- For government functions, including military or veteran's activities, national security, intelligence, Secret Service or other protective agencies, medical suitability determinations, correctional institutions or other government programs providing public health benefits.
- To the extent such disclosure may be required by law, or about victims of abuse, neglect or violence.
- To organ procurement organizations or to avert a serious threat to health or safety.
- To the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workmen's compensation or other programs established by law to provide benefits for work-related injury or illness.

HIPAA provides you certain rights, such as access to your medical records, requests to deny disclosure of your health information or an accounting of recent disclosures within the six years prior to your request. You have the right to revoke authorization for disclosure; however, there are exceptions, these rights are not absolute. We are not required by the Act to agree to requested restrictions, but will make every effort to accommodate each reasonable request.

We will also take precautions in our office to safeguard your information, such as training our staff and employing computer security measures. An authorization and release consent is presented to you at the time of your initial visit and is kept with your medical records, the terms of which may change from time to time; you may request a revised notice from the staff. Complaints may be filed with the healthcare provider or to the office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I acknowledge that I have read this Privacy Policy, and understand and agree to the terms and conditions contained herein.

Patient/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____