

## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION, YOUR RIGHTS CONCERNING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

State and Federal laws require us to maintain the privacy of your health information and to inform you about our privacy practices by providing you with this Notice. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. This Notice will take effect on 2011 and will remain in effect until it is amended or replaced by us.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices provided law permits the changes. Before we make a significant change, this Notice will be amended to reflect the changes and we will make the new Notice available upon request. We reserve the right to make any changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information maintained, created and/or received by us before the date changes were made.

You may request a copy of our Privacy Notice at any time by contacting our Privacy Officer, HIPPA. Information on contacting us can be found at the end of this Notice.

We will keep your health information confidential, using it only for the following purposes:

**Treatment:** While we are providing you with health care services, we may share your protected health information (PHI) including electronic protected health information (ePHI) with other health care providers, business associates and their subcontractors or individuals who are involved in your treatment, billing, administrative support or data analysis. These business associates and subcontractors through signed contracts are required by Federal law to protect your health information. We have established "minimum necessary" or "need to know" standards that limit various staff members' access to your health information according to their primary job functions. Everyone on our staff is required to sign a confidentiality statement.

**Payment:** We may use and disclose your health information to seek payment for services we provide to you. This disclosure involves our business office staff and may include insurance organizations, collections or other third parties that may be responsible for such costs, such as family members.

**Disclosure:** We may disclose and/or share protected health information (PHI) including electronic disclosure with other health care professionals who provide treatment and/or service to you. These professionals will have a privacy and confidentiality policy like this one. Health information about you may also be disclosed to your family, friends and/or other persons you choose to involve in your care, only if you agree that we may do so. As of March 26, 2013 immunization records for students may be released without an authorization (as long as the PHI disclosed is limited to proof of immunization). If an individual is deceased you may disclose PHI to a family member or individual involved in care or payment prior to death. Psychotherapy notes will not be used or disclosed without your written authorization. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) prohibits health plans from using or disclosing genetic information for underwriting purposes. Uses and disclosures not described in this notice will be made only with your signed authorization.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:** You have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures" of your protected information if the disclosure was made for purposes other than providing services, payment, and or business operations. In light of the increasing use of Electronic Medical Record technology (EMR), the HITECH Act allows you the right to request a copy of your health information in electronic form if we store your information electronically. Disclosures can be made available for a period of 6 years prior to your request and for electronic health information 3 years prior to the date on which the accounting is requested. If for some reason we aren't capable of an electronic format, a readable hardcopy will be provided. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to our Privacy Officer. Lists, if requested, will be \$ ? for each page and the staff time charged will be \$ ? per hour including the time required to locate and copy your health information. Please contact our Privacy Officer for an explanation of our fee structure.

**Right to Request Restriction of PHI:** If you pay in full out of pocket for your treatment, you can instruct us not to share information about your treatment with your health plan; if the request is not required by law. Effective March 26, 2013, The Omnibus Rule restricts provider's refusal of an individual's request not to disclose PHI.

**Non-routine Disclosures:** You have the right to receive a list of non-routine disclosures we have made of your health care information. You can request non-routine disclosures going back 6 years starting on April 14, 2003.

**Emergencies:** We may use or disclose your health information to notify, or assist in the notification of a family member or anyone responsible for your care, in case of any emergency involving your care, your location, your general condition or death. If at all possible we will provide you with an opportunity to object to this use or disclosure. Under emergency conditions or if you are incapacitated we will use our professional judgment to disclose only that information directly relevant to your care. We will also use our professional judgment to make reasonable inferences of your best interest by allowing someone to pick up filled prescriptions, x-rays or other similar forms of health information and/or supplies unless you have advised us otherwise.

**Healthcare Operations:** We will use and disclose your health information to keep our practice operable. Examples of personnel who may have access to this information include, but are not limited to, our medical records staff, insurance operations, health care clearinghouses and individuals performing similar activities.