



## 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 privacy of your health information is important to us.

### OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect April 14, 2003 and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy and the forms of this notice at any time, provided such changes as permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change the notice and make the new notice available upon request. You may request a copy of our notice at any time for more information about our privacy, or additional copies of the notice.

### USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, for example:

**HEALTHCARE OPERATION:** We may use and disclose your health information to connections without healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professional, evaluating provider performance, conducting training program, and accreditations.

**YOUR AUTHORIZATION:** In addition to your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operation, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose, if you give an authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this notice.

**TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the patients' rights section of the notice, we may discuss your health information to a family member, friend, or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment form your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

**PERSON INVOLVED IN CARE:** We may use or disclose health information to notify, or to assist in the in the notification of (including identifying or location) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to using or disclosing your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such use or disclosure. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is common practice to make reasonable inference for your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

**MARKETING HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES:** We will not use your health information for marketing communication without your written authorization.



**ABUSE OR NEGLECT:** We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

**NATIONAL SECURITY:** We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

**APPOINTMENT REMINDERS:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters).

## PATIENT RIGHTS

**ACCESS:** You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of the Notice. If you request copies, we will charge you \$1 for each page,

\$12 per hour for staff time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

**DISCLOSURE ACCOUNTING:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

**RESTRICTION:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

**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 it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

**ELECTRONIC NOTICE:** If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

## QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS



If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use of disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

We support your right to privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Officer: Paul McNeil

Telephone: (501) 781-2777 ext 1011 Fax: 501-781-2778

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