

## Notice Of Privacy Practices For Protected Health Information

*This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.*

This office is required to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices. This office will not use or disclose your health information except as described in this Notice. If you consent, the office is permitted by federal privacy laws to make uses and disclosures of your health information for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. Protected health information is the information we create and obtain in providing our services to you. Such information may include documenting your symptoms, medical history, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and applying for future care or treatment. It also includes billing documents for those services.

Examples of uses of your health information for treatment purposes are:

- A provider or assistant obtains treatment information about you and records it in a health record.
- During the course of your treatment, the provider determines he/she will need to consult with another specialist in the area. He/she will obtain your signed authorization before sharing information with such specialists to obtain his/her input.
- Referral information may be forwarded to Diagnostic Testing Labs for further treatment or testing where the provider will want results of such treatment or testing reported back to him/her.
- If the provider is a specialist, your health information and progress may be reported back to your primary care provider or referring provider, upon receipt of your written authorization.

Example of use of your health information for payment purposes:

- We submit requests for payment to your health insurance company. The health insurance company requests health information from us regarding medical care given. We will provide information to them about you and the care given. For example, a bill sent to your health insurance company may include information that identifies your diagnosis, and the procedures and supplies used.

Example of use of your health information for health care operations:

- We obtain services from our insurers or other business associates (an individual or entity under contract with us to perform or assist us in a function or activity that necessitates the use or disclosure of health information) such as quality assessment, quality improvement, outcome evaluation, protocol and clinical guidelines development, training programs, credentialing, medical transcription, medical review, legal services, and insurance. We will share health information about you with our insurers or other business associates as necessary to obtain these services. We require our insurers and other business associates to protect the confidentiality of your health information.

## **YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS**

The health and billing records we maintain are the physical property of the treating provider. The information in it, however, belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your health information by delivering the request in writing to our office. We are not required to grant the request but we will comply with any request granted as required by law;
- Obtain a paper copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health information ("Notice") by making a request at our office.
- Request that you be allowed to inspect and copy your billing record - you may exercise this right by delivering the request in writing to our office;
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information as required to be maintained by law, upon request. An accounting will not include internal uses of information for treatment, payment, operations, or disclosures made to you; and
- Revoke authorizations that you made previously to use or disclose information except to the extent information or action has already been taken by delivering a written revocation to our office.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact *Sunshine Health Care Center, (623) 266-1722, at 13660 N 94th Drive, Ste. C-4, Peoria, AZ 85381-4841*, in person or in writing, during normal business hours. She will provide you with assistance on the steps to take to exercise your rights.

You have the right to review this Notice before signing the consent authorizing use and disclosure of your protected health information for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes.

## **OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

This office is required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information as required by law;
- Provide you with a notice as to our duties and privacy practices as to the information we collect and maintain about you;
- Abide by the terms of this Notice;
- Notify you if we cannot accommodate a requested restriction or request; and
- Accommodate your reasonable requests regarding methods to communicate health information with you.

We reserve the right to amend, change, or eliminate provisions in our privacy practices and access practices and to enact new provisions regarding the protected health information we maintain. If our information practices change, we will amend our Notice. You are entitled to receive a revised copy of the Notice by calling and requesting a copy of our "Notice" or by visiting our office and picking up a copy.

**TO REQUEST INFORMATION OR FILE A COMPLAINT**

If you have questions, would like additional information, or want to report a problem regarding the handling of your information, you may contact Sunshine Health Care Center, (623) 266-1722. Additionally, if you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint at our office by delivering the written complaint to Sunshine Health Care Center. You may also file a complaint by mailing it to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We cannot, and will not, require you to waive the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a condition of receiving treatment from the office. Likewise, we cannot, and will not, retaliate against you for filing a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**OTHER DISCLOSURES AND USES**

*Notification of Family/Friends:* Our office does NOT disclose protected health information or any other information to family members.

*Appointment Reminders and Treatment Information:* We may contact you and/or leave a message on your telephone answering machine to provide you with appointment reminders, lab results, prescription information, or billing information.

*Workers Compensation:* If you are seeking compensation through Workers Compensation, we may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to Workers Compensation.

*Abuse, Neglect & Domestic Violence:* We may disclose your health information to public authorities as allowed by law to report abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

*Inmates:* If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement officer, we may disclose to the institution or law enforcement official health information necessary for your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals.

*Law Enforcement:* We may disclose your health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law, such as when required by a court order; for identification of a victim of a crime if certain protective requirements are met; to report a crime in emergencies; and other appropriate situations as permitted by law.

*Judicial/Administrative Proceedings:* We may disclose your health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding as allowed or required by law or as directed by a proper court order or in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process if certain specific requirements are met. To avert a serious threat to health or safety, we may disclose your health information consistent with applicable law to prevent or lessen a serious, imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

*Other Uses:* Any other uses and disclosures of your health information besides those identified in this Notice will be made only as otherwise authorized by law or with your written authorization and you may revoke the authorization as previously provided.

Effective Date: April 9, 2010

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_