



## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

**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.**

**Effective Date: 04/13/2003**

### **Our Pledge Regarding Your Health Information**

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. We create a record of the care and services you receive from us. We need this record to provide you with quality care, obtain payment for the services we provide, and to comply with legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by us, whether made by your personal doctor, other Practice doctors, or Practice staff. We are required by law to 1) make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private; 2) give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices; and 3) follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect. The professional and non-professional staff at our Practice will follow the terms of this Notice.

### **How We May Use and Disclose Medical Information About You**

The following categories and examples describe the different ways that we use and disclose medical information. Not every use and disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

<b>Category:</b>	<b>Description and Examples:</b>
Treatment	We may share medical information about you with another physician, a hospital, or other health care provider involved in your care. For example, a hospital may need to see part of your medical record before you have surgery.
For Payment	We may share medical information with Medicare or other health plan to obtain payment for services provided to you, to verify insurance coverage, or to obtain authorization for further treatment. For example, an insurance company may need to see part of your medical record before they will pay for the services.
For Practice Operations	We may share medical information as necessary to manage the medical, legal, and financial affairs of the Practice and to monitor the quality of services provided to our patients. For example, our attorney or accountant may need patient information in order to provide legal and financial services to the Practice. Any business associate with whom we share medical information will agree in writing to protect your privacy.
Appointment Reminders	We may disclose medical information to remind you of an appointment. We will disclose only the date, time, and location of the appointment.
Family Members & Friends	We will share medical information with a friend or family member who is involved in your care or payment of your bill. We will give you an opportunity to agree or object to these disclosures unless it is clear from the circumstances that you do not object.
Workers Compensation	We may report a work-related injury to a worker compensation carrier or to advise your employer about a work-related injury.
To meet legal requirements and for public health activities	We may disclose medical information to a government agency that oversees medical practice in the State such as Florida Agency for Health Care Administration or the Board of Medicine. We are also required to report certain diseases and conditions to the local unit of the Department of Health for its public health activities.
Law enforcement, lawsuits, disputes, and reports of abuse or neglect	We may disclose medical information to an attorney or a law enforcement official to comply with a court order, subpoena, discovery request, or other legal mandate. We may also disclose medical information to assist law enforcement with investigating crime. For example, we are required to report wounds resulting from violence and incidents of abuse or neglect.
To avert a serious threat to health or safety	We may use and disclose medical information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or that of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to respond to the threat.
For special Government Functions	We may be required to disclose medical information to a government agency for national security purposes, a correctional facility in which you may be incarcerated, or to a military authority if you are in the service or a veteran.
Organ and tissue Donation	We may disclose medical information to an organization that handles organ, eye, or tissue transplantation.
Medical Examiners And Funeral Directors	We may release medical information to a coroner or medical examiner to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release medical information about individuals to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

