

COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE NOTIFICATION FOR OUR PATIENTS

To Our Valued Patients:

The misuse of Personal Health Information (PHI) has been identified as a national problem causing patients inconvenience, aggravation, and money. We want you to know that all of our employees, managers and doctors continually undergo training so that they may understand and comply with government rules and regulations regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) with particular emphasis on the "Privacy Rule". We strive to achieve the very highest standards of ethics and integrity in performing services for our patients.

It is our policy to properly determine appropriate uses of PHI in accordance with the governmental rules, laws and regulations. We want to ensure that our practice never contributes in any way to the growing problem of improper disclosure of PHI. As part of this plan, we have implemented a Compliance Program that we believe will help us prevent any inappropriate use of PHI.

We also know that we are not perfect. Because of this fact, our policy is to listen to our employees and our patients without any thought of penalization if they feel that an event in any way compromises our policy of integrity. More so, we welcome your input regarding any service problem so that we may remedy the situation promptly.

Thank you for being one of our highly valued patients.

PATIENT CONSENT FORM

The Department of Health and Human Services has established a "Privacy Rule" to help ensure that personal healthcare information is protected for privacy. The Privacy Rule was also created in order to provide a standard for certain healthcare providers to obtain their patients' consent for uses and disclosures of health information about the patient to carry out treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

As our patient, we want you to know that we respect the privacy of your personal medical records and will do all we can to secure and protect that privacy. We strive to always take reasonable precautions to protect your privacy. When it is appropriate and necessary, we provide the minimum necessary information to only those we feel are in need of your healthcare information and information about treatment, payment or healthcare operations, in order to provide healthcare that is in your best interest.

We also want you to know that we support your full access to our personal medical records. We may have indirect treatment relationships with you (such as laboratories that only interact with physicians and not patients), and may have to disclose personal health information for purposes of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. These entities are most often not required to obtain patient consent.

You may refuse to consent to the use or disclosure of your personal health information, but this must be in writing. Under this law, we have the right to refuse to treat you should you choose to refuse to disclose your Personal Health Information (PHI). If you choose to give consent in this document, at some future time you may request to refuse all or part of your PHI. You may not revoke actions that have already been taken which relied on this or a previously signed consent.

In an effort to provide appropriate care for you, if you have refused to sign this consent, it may be necessary for us to refuse treatment.

If you have any objections to this form, please ask to speak with our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

You have the right to review our privacy notice, to request restrictions and revoke consent in writing after you have reviewed our privacy notice.

Your personal health information will be shared in the operating suite. If you do not wish for the person accompanying you to hear your information, please have them remain in the waiting room. Otherwise, your signature gives consent for anyone in the operative suite with you to be allowed to hear your personal information. This consent may be revoked at anytime in writing.

I understand that I am entitled to receive a copy of this document.

PATIENT/Guardian or Personal Representative Print Name

Date