



HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Notice of Privacy Practices

This Notice describes how your health information 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

Federal and state laws require us to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to provide this Notice about our office's privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights regarding your health information. This Notice takes effect on the date that it is signed and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time provided that such changes are permitted by applicable law. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request. For more information about our privacy practices or additional copies of this Notice, please contact us (contact information below).

Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

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

Treatment: We may use or disclose your health information with members of our office, other dentists, physicians, or other healthcare professionals involved in your care.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide you, unless you request that we restrict such disclosure to your health plan when you have paid out-of-pocket and in full for services rendered.

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations, which include, but are not limited to, quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

To Your Family and Friends: You have the right to request restrictions on disclosure to family members, other relatives, close personal friends, or any other person identified by you.

Persons Involved in Care: We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Public Health: We may disclose your health information to public health agencies for purposes related to preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting abuse or neglect; reporting domestic violence; reporting problems with products and reactions to medications; and reporting disease or infection exposure.

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, or if necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information when attempting to contact you for appointment reminders. We may provide reminders via voicemail, postcards, letters, or emails.

Sign In Sheet and Announcement: Upon arriving at our office, we may use and disclose medical information about you by asking that you sign an intake sheet at our front desk. We may also announce your name when we are ready to see you.

Patient Rights

Access: You have the right to submit a written request to obtain copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. 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. If you request copies, there may be a charge for time spent. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee.

Disclosure Accounting: You have a right to receive a list of instances in which we disclosed your health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities for the last six years. 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 emergency). In the event you pay out-of-pocket and in full for services rendered, you may request that we not share your health information with your health plan. We must agree to this request.

Alternative Communication: You have the right to submit a written request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

Breach Notification: In the event your unsecured protected health information is breached, we will notify you as required by law.

Amendment: You have the right to submit a written request that we amend your health information. The request should include an explanation for why it is to be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Questions and Complaints:

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

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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 or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may send a written complaint to our office or to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.