

Notice of Privacy Practices

My practice is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your personal health information. I am required also by law to do this. These laws are complicated, but I must provide you with important information. This contains a shorter version of the full, legally required notice of privacy practices (NPP), which you received along with this so refer to it for more information. However, we can't cover all possible situations, so please talk to me about any questions or problems.

I will use the information about your health, which I get from you or from others, mainly to provide you with treatment, to arrange payment for my services or for some other business activities, which are called, in the law, health care operations. After you have read this, I will ask you to sign a Consent Form to let me use and share your information. If you do not consent and sign this form, I cannot treat you.

If you or I want to disclose (send, share, release) your information for any other purposes, I will discuss this with you and ask you to sign an Authorization to allow this. Of course, I will keep your health information private, but there are some times when the law requires me to use or share limited parts of your information, such as:

When there is a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another individual or the public. I will only share information with a person or organization that is able to help prevent or reduce the threat.

Some lawsuits or legal and court proceedings.

If a law enforcement official requires me to do so.

For Workers' Compensation and similar benefit programs.

As a mandated reporter, I have to report, I have to report suspected child abuse and suspected elder abuse.

There are some other situations like these, but which don't happen very often. They are described in the longer version of the NPP.

Your rights regarding your health information

You can ask me to communicate with you about your health and related issues in a particular way or at a certain place. For example, you can ask me to call you at home, and not at work, to schedule or cancel an appointment. I will try my best to do as you ask.

You have the right to ask me to limit what I tell certain individuals involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as family members and friends. While I don't have to agree to your request, if I do agree, I will keep our agreement except if it is against the law, or in an emergency, or when the information is necessary to treat you.

You have the right to look at the health information I have about you as such as your medical and billing records and psychotherapy notes. You can even get a copy of these records, but I may charge you. If you believe the information in your records is incorrect or incomplete, you can ask me to make some kinds of changes (called amending) to your health information. You have to make this request in writing and send it to me. You must tell me the reasons you want to make the changes.

You have the right to a copy of this notice. If I change this, I will provide you with a new copy. You have the right to file a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. You can file a complaint with me and with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. All complaints must be in writing. Filing a complaint will not change the health care I provide to you in any way. If you have questions regarding this notice or my health information privacy policies, please contact me at the numbers provided above. The effective date of this notice is September 1, 2008.