

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU 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

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect (04-01-03) and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the change in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all health information we maintain, including health information we created or received before we make the changes. Before we make significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and make the new notice available upon request.

You may request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this notice, please contact us using information listed at the end of this notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, i.e...

Treatment. We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider who provides treatment to you.

PAYMENT. We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS. We may use and disclose your health information in connection with your healthcare operations, healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing activities.

YOUR AUTHORIZATION. In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your healthcare information or disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at anytime. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this notice.

TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the patient rights section of this notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend, or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for you healthcare, but only if you agree that we do so and designate this person on the form attached to this notice.

PERSONS INVOLVED IN CARE. We may use or disclose health information to notify or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, general condition or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclose of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that directly relevant to the persons involvement.