

HIPAA PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you may obtain access to this information.

This office has always recognized the importance of privacy; this new federal law formalizes practices that have been followed routinely. As is require by the new law, we have highlighted the points of interest for your review.

Background:

In 1996, Congress recognized the need for national patient privacy standards and as part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), ordered that a set of rules be established to control how health information is used and disclosed, as maintained by doctors, hospitals, and health plans.

Health information is considered sensitive and personal, and the law established consumer protection and limits the sharing of such information, as do similar protections already enacted for bank accounts, credit cards, and even video rentals.

- By the law, consent is not required to discuss your medical treatment with your other doctors or health care providers. This allows, also, for prescription to be called into your pharmacy and for scheduling of surgery in a hospital.
- Additionally, no consent is needed in the course of carrying out health care operations, such as quality assessment, or in communication with our insurance carrier for payment related issues, or for incidental uses, such as announcing a name in a waiting room or the use of sign-in sheets.
- However, this office has always gone one step further in protecting you and does not believe in releasing specific information about you to any business or governmental entity without your written consent.
- Specific authorization is required to disclose protected information in a non-routine circumstance, such as to your employer or for use in marketing a product to you.
- Medical information about you may be released for research and public health uses as long as you are not individually identified.
- You have the right to request the release of your medical information.
- You may suggest additional restrictions with regard to certain used and disclosures, if you wish.
- Portions of this notice may be modified and/or amended per government regulations.
- The law requires that you acknowledge receipt of this notice.

Thank you.