

Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice is required by law (Federal regulations 45 CFR Parts 160 & 164) and describes how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. This notice is in effect on and after December 1, 2004.

Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

We use health information about you for treatment (diagnostic testing, medical prescriptions, referrals, etc.), to obtain payment (submit claims and/or encounters to billing services and/or clearing houses, and/or collection agencies, etc.), for healthcare operations (reporting, utilization management, etc.), and to evaluate the quality of care that you receive.

We may use or disclose identifiable health information about you without your authorization for other purposes such as auditing and research studies when the research has been approved by an institutional review board. As required by law, we may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with prevention on controlling disease, injury, or disability.

Your Health Information Rights

- You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your health record with a signed authorization as provided in 45 CFR 164.524.
- You have the right to request in writing that we restrict and/or not use or disclose your protected health information as provided in 45 CFR 164.522 but we do not have to agree to accept your restrictions.
- You have the right to request in writing that your physician amend your protected health information as provided in 45 CFR 164.528.
- You have the right to request in writing to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location as provided in 45 FR 164.522.
- You have the right to obtain a list of instances (accounting of disclosures) where we have disclosed your protected health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, or health care operations as provided in 45 CFR 165.528.
- You have the right to revoke your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken as provided in 45 CFR 164.508.

Our Responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information.
- We are required by law to provide you with this notice about our privacy practices.
- We are required by law to follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice; however, we reserve the right to change or modify our practices and to make the new provisions effective for all protected health information (PHI) we maintain. Should our information practices change, we will post the revised privacy notice.

Questions and Complaints

If you have questions or if you are concerned that we have violated your privacy rights, you may contact us. You may also file a complaint with the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation against you for filing a complaint.