

2026 HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

Physician Practice

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: February 16, 2026

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN ACCESS THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Our Responsibilities as a Physician Practice

As your health care provider, we are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information (PHI)
 - Provide you with this Notice describing our legal duties and privacy practices
 - Follow the terms of this Notice
 - Notify you if a breach occurs that may compromise your information
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Your Rights

As a patient of this practice, you have the right to:

- Access your medical and billing records
 - Request corrections to your medical record
 - Request confidential communications
 - Request limits on certain uses or disclosures
 - Receive an accounting of certain disclosures
 - Receive a paper or electronic copy of this Notice
 - Appoint a personal representative
 - File a complaint without fear of retaliation
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How This Practice May Use and Disclose Your Health Information

We may use and disclose your health information for:

Treatment - To provide, coordinate, or manage your care.

Example: Sharing information with specialists, labs, imaging centers, or hospitals involved in your treatment.

Payment - To bill and collect payment from health plans or you.

Example: Submitting claims or responding to coverage inquiries.

Health Care Operations - To operate our practice.

Example: Quality improvement, credentialing, auditing, care coordination, and administrative services.

Other Permitted Uses

- As required by law
- Public health reporting
- Health oversight activities
- Workers' compensation
- Law enforcement, when permitted by law

Some uses and disclosures require your **written authorization**, which you may revoke at any time.

SIGNIFICANT NOTICE ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RECORDS

Certain records related to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment are protected by federal confidentiality regulations (42 CFR Part 2) and receive additional privacy protections.

What This Means in Our Practice

- SUD treatment records are more strictly protected than other medical records.
- These records cannot be used or disclosed without your specific written consent, except as permitted by law.
- SUD records cannot be used or disclosed in legal proceedings against you, including criminal, civil, administrative, or legislative proceedings, without:
 - Your written consent, or
 - A court order that meets the strict requirements of 42 CFR Part 2.

Fundraising Communications (If Applicable)

If our practice contacts you for fundraising purposes, you have the right to opt out of receiving future fundraising communications.

Instructions on how to opt out will be included in each communication.

(If your practice does not conduct fundraising, this section may be removed.)

Reproductive Health Information

Our practice protects reproductive health information in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. We will not use or disclose such information in ways prohibited by law and will comply with all applicable privacy protections.

Changes to This Notice

We may change this Notice from time to time.

Any changes will apply to all health information we maintain and will be available:

- On our website
- At our office
- Upon request

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with:

- Our Privacy Officer, or
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights

You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Contact Information

Privacy Officer: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE:

These are regulatory interpretations, not legal opinions, and final legal review remains best practice before distribution, especially given evolving OCR guidance.