

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 April 14, 2003, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a 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 the information at the end of this Notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We used and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use and disclose your health information to a dentist or other healthcare provider 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 our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

Michigan Dental Patient Consent Law: We are required by Michigan Law to obtain your written consent prior to making certain disclosures of your health information.

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 health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures 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 sections 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 your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

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, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure 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 information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inference of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

Marketing Health-Related Services: We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorize federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement officials having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters.)

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or obtain copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format to request unless we cannot practicably do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses, such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary of an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before October 1, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency.)

Alternative Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. (You must make your request in writing.) Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing and it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you mad to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complain with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Privacy Officer: Kyle Garlitz, Practice Manager

Telephone: 517.349.3266 Fax: 517.347.1750

Address: 1738 Hamilton Road, Okemos, MI 48864



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Patient Acknowledgement and Consent Form 12/03

Effective April 14, 2003, the new federal law known as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") requires that this office comply with certain rules regarding the maintenance of the privacy of your information that we have collected and will collect in the future. To comply with one of HIPAA's requirements, we are giving you a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. This Notice of Privacy contains the information that HIPAA requires us to disclose regarding our privacy practices.

Existing Michigan Law requires us (in addition to our attempt to obtain your written acknowledgement, discussed above) to obtain your written consent prior to disclosing any of your information except for our disclosures in connection with: a defense to a claim challenging our professional competence; a review entity's functions; a claim for payment of fees; a third party payer's examination of our records; a court order as part of criminal investigation; an identification of a dead body; a licensure investigation; or a child abuse/neglect investigation.

From time to time, it may be necessary for us to make disclosures of your information in connection with your treatment. For example, we may make a referral to or consult with other dentists or other health care professionals (as is our practice to coordinate care), provide a specimen to a laboratory for an appliance to be made or otherwise make disclosures of your information in connection with providing or coordinating your treatment. We strive to work with other providers, as appropriate, and send letters to apprise the provider of the patient's treatment status.

Patient Acknowledgement

Please sign this form below under the heading "acknowledgement" to acknowledge that you have received a copy of our notice of privacy practices.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices.

Patient Signature (18 or older) or Signature of Legal Guardian

Patient Name Printed

- Patient
- Legal Guardian

Date

For Office Use Only

We attempted to obtain a written acknowledgement of receipt of our Notice of Privacy Practices, but acknowledgement could not be obtained because:

- Individual refused to sign
- Communications barriers prohibited obtaining the acknowledgement
- An emergency situation prevented us from obtaining acknowledgement
- Other _____

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Patient Consent

Please sign this form below under the heading "Consent" to consent to disclosures of your information that we deem necessary in order to provide you with a proper treatment.

I consent to your disclosures of my information, which you deem are necessary in connection with my treatment.

Patient Signature (18 or older) or Signature of Legal Guardian

Patient Name Printed

- Patient
- Legal Guardian

Date

Patient Authorization

I authorize disclosures of my information, (picture and first name) to be used to support promotions within the practice. I understand I may revoke this authorization at any time in writing.

Patient Signature (18 or older) or Signature of Legal Guardian

Patient Name Printed

- Patient
- Legal Guardian

Date