



## Colorado Physician Partners

### NOTICE of PRIVACY PRACTICES

*This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully. If you need a copy of this notice, please ask the front desk personnel.*

The office is permitted by federal privacy laws to make uses and disclosures of your health information for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. Protected Health Information (PHI) is the information we create and obtain in providing our services to you. Such information may include documenting your symptoms, examinations, test results, diagnoses, treatment and applying for future care or treatment. It also includes billing documents for those services.

#### **Examples of Use of Your Protected Health Information (PHI) for Treatment Purposes:**

- A nurse obtains treatment information about you and records it in your health records
- During the course of your treatment, the physician determines if they will need to consult with another specialist in the area. Your provider will share the information with such specialist and obtain their input.

#### **Examples of Use of Your Protected Health Information (PHI) for Payment Purposes:**

- Our office will submit requests for payment to your health insurance company.
- The health insurance company (or other business associated helping obtain payment) requests information from our office regarding medical care given. Our office will provide information to them regarding you and the care given.

#### **Examples of Use of Your Protected Health Information (PHI) for Health Care Operations:**

We obtain services from our insurers or other business associates such as quality assessment, quality improvement, outcome evaluation, protocol and clinical guideline development, training programs, credentialing, medical review, legal services and insurance. We will share information about you with such insurers or other business associates, as necessary, to obtain these services.

## **Your Protected Health Information Rights**

*The health information and billing records we maintain are the physical property of the office. The information in it, however, belongs to you. You have the right to:*

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your protected health information by delivering the request to our office – we are not required to grant the request, but we will comply with any request granted;
- Obtain a paper copy of the current Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (“Notice”) by making a request at our office;
- Request that you be allowed to inspect and copy your health record and billing record – you may exercise this right by delivering this request to our office;
- Appeal a denial of access to your protected health information, except in certain circumstances;
- Request that your health care record be amended to correct incomplete or incorrect information by delivering a request to our office – we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:
  - Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment
  - Is not part of the health information kept by or for the office
  - Is not part of the information that you would be permitted to inspect and copy
  - Is accurate and complete

If your request is denied, you will be informed of the reason for the denial and will have an opportunity to submit a statement of disagreement to be maintained with your records.

- Request that communication of your health information be made by alternative means or at an alternative location by delivering the request in writing to our office.
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures to your health information as required to be maintained by law by delivering a request to our office. An accounting will not include uses and disclosures of information for treatment, payment, or operations; disclosures or uses made to you or made at your request; uses or disclosures made pursuant to an authorization signed by you; uses or disclosures made in a facility directory or to family members or friends relevant to that person’s involvement in your care or in payment for such are; or, uses or disclosures to notify family, or others responsible for your care of your location, condition, or your death.
- Revoke authorizations that you made previously to use or disclose information by delivering a written revocation to our office, except to the extent information or action has already been taken.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact the Office Manager during regular business hours. They will inform you of the steps that need to be taken to exercise your rights.

### **Our Responsibility**

The office is required:

- Maintain the privacy of your protected health information as required by law;
- Provide you with a notice as to our duties and privacy practices as to the information we collect and maintain about you;
- Abide by the terms of this “Notice”;
- Notify you if we cannot accommodate a requested restriction or request; and,
- Accommodate your reasonable requests regarding methods to communicate health information with you.

We reserve the right to amend, change, or eliminate provisions in our privacy practices and to enact new provisions regarding the protected health information we maintain. If our information practices change, we will amend of “Notice”. You are entitled to receive a revised copy of the “Notice” by calling and requesting a copy of our “Notice” or by visiting our office and picking up a copy.

### **To Request Information or File a Complaint**

If you have questions, would like additional information or want to report a problem regarding the handling of your information, you may contact the Office Manager during normal business hours.

Additionally, if you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint at our office by delivering the written complaint to the Privacy Officer.

You may also file a complaint by mailing it or e-mailing it to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, whose street address and e-mail address is:

Office for Civil Rights – U.S Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W

Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C, 20201

- We cannot, and will not, require you to waive the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a condition of receiving treatment from the office.
- We cannot, and will not, retaliate against you for filing a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

### **Other Disclosures and Uses**

#### **Communication with Family:**

Using our best judgment, we may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care or in a payment for such care if you do not object or in an emergency.

#### **Notification:**

Unless you object, we may use or disclose your protected health information to notify, or assist in notifying, a family member, personal representative, or other person responsible for your care, about your location, and about your general condition, or your death.

#### **Research:**

We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your protected health information.

#### **Disaster Relief:**

We may use and disclose your protected health information to assist in disaster relief efforts.

#### **Organ Procurement Organizations:**

Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose your protected health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, transplantation, or organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA):**

We may disclose to the FDA your protected health information relating to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

**Workers Compensation:**

If you are seeking compensation through Workers Compensation, we may disclose your protected health information to the extent necessary to comply with laws related to Workers Compensation.

**Public Health:**

As authorized by law, we may disclose your protected health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability; to report reactions to medication or problems with products; to notify people of recalls; to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or who is at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

**Abuse and Neglect:**

We may disclose your protected health information to public authorities as allowed by law to report abuse or neglect.

**Employers:**

We may release health information about you to your employer if we provide health care services to you at the request of your employer and the health care services are provided either to conduct an evaluation relating to medical surveillance of the workplace or to evaluate whether you have a work-related illness or injury. In such circumstances, we will give you written notice of such release or information to your employer. Any other disclosures to your employer will be made only if you execute a specific authorization for the release of that information to your employer.

**Correctional Institutions:**

If you are an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose to the institution or its agents the protected health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

**Law Enforcement:**

We may disclose your protected health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law, such as when required by a court order, or in cases involving felony prosecutions, or the extent an individual is in the custody of law enforcement.

**Health Oversight:**

Federal law allows us to release your protected health information to appropriate health oversight agencies or for health oversight activities.

**Judicial/Administrative Proceedings:**

We may disclose your protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceedings as allowed or required by law, with your authorization, or as directed by proper court order.

**Serious Threat:**

To avert a serious threat to health or safety, we may disclose your protected health information consistent with applicable law to prevent or lessen a serious imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

**For Specialized Government Functions:**

We may disclose your protected health information for specialized functions as authorized by law such as Armed Forces personnel, for national security purposes, or to public assistance program personnel.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors:**

We may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release health information about patients to funeral directors as necessary for them to carry out their duties.

**Other Uses:**

Other uses and disclosure, besides those identified in this Notice, will be made only as otherwise required by law or with your written authorization and you may revoke the authorization as previously provided in this Notice under "Your Health Information Rights."

**Website:**

If we maintain a website that provides information about our entity, this “Notice” will be on the website.

**CORHIO HIE:**

Our clinic endorses, supports and participates in electronic Health Information Exchange (HIE) as a means to improve the quality of your health and healthcare experience. HIE provides us with a way to securely and efficiently share patients’ clinical information electronically with other physicians and health care providers that participate in the HIE network. Using HIE helps your health care providers to more effectively share information and provide you with better care. The HIE also enables emergency medical personnel and other providers who are treating you to have immediate access to your medical data that may be critical for your care. Making your health information available to your health care providers through the HIE can also help reduce your costs by eliminating unnecessary duplication of tests and procedures. However, you may choose to opt-out of participation in the <CORHIO> HIE, or cancel an opt-out at any time.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES – updated 5/14/2020**

I hereby acknowledge that I am aware of the Notice of Privacy form, which was offered to me.

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Patient Name (please print clearly)

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Date of Birth

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Patient/Guardian Signature

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Date

