

# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

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\_\_\_\_\_ Name

**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.**

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information (PHI) to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations (TPO) and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. “Protected health information” is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

## **1. Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

Your PHI may be used and disclosed by your health care practitioner, our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you, to pay your health care bills, to support the operation of this health center, and any other use required by law.

**Treatment:** We will use and disclose your PHI to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This included the coordination or management of your health care with a third party. For example, we would disclose your PHI, as necessary, to a health care practitioner to whom you have been referred to ensure that the practitioner has the necessary information to diagnose and treat you.

**Payment:** Your PHI will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. For example, obtaining approval for a diagnostic test may require that your relevant PHI be disclosed to the health insurance plan to obtain approval for the test.

**Healthcare Operations:** We may use or disclose, as needed, your PHI in order to support the business activities of this health center. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of medical students or nurse practitioners, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. For example, we may disclose your PHI to a medical or nurse practitioner student that is seeing patients in our health center. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when we are ready for you to be seen.

We may also use or disclose your PHI in the following situations without your authorization. These situations include: as required by law, public health issues as required by law, communicable diseases, health oversight, abuse or neglect, food and drug administration requirements, legal proceedings, law enforcement, coroner request, funeral director request, criminal activity, national security, worker’s compensation. Under law we must make disclosures to you when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of Section 164.500.

**Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures:** will be made **only** with your consent, authorization or opportunity to object unless required by law.

You may revoke this authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your health care practitioner or this health center has taken action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

## Your Rights

The following is a statement of your rights with respect to your PHI.

**You have the right to inspect and copy your PHI.** Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records: psychotherapy notes; information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding; and PHI that is subject to law that prohibits access to PHI.

**You have the right to request a restriction of your PHI.** This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your PHI for the purpose of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You may also request that any part of your PHI not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in the Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply.

Your health care practitioner is not required to agree to a restriction that you request. If your health care practitioner believes it is in your best interest to permit use and disclosure of your PHI, your PHI will not be restricted. You then have the right to use another health care practitioner.

**You have the right to request to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us,** upon request, even if you have agreed to accept this notice alternatively.

**You may have the right to have your health care practitioner amend your PHI.** If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal.

**You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your PHI.**

We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and will inform you by mail of any changes. You then have the right to object or withdraw as provided in this notice.

## Complaints

You may complain to us or the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. You may file a complaint with us by notifying our health center of your complaint. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

This notice was published and became effective on April 14, 2003.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of, and provide individuals with, this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. If you have any objections to the form, please ask to speak with our HIPAA Compliance Officer in person or by telephone at our main office number (717-871-5250).

Please sign the acknowledgement statement on the *Millersville University Health Services Report of Health*.