

**Notice of Privacy Practices:** This notice describes how health information about you may be used, and it discloses 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 1, 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 the 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 your 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 listed at the end of this notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION: We use and disclose health information about you for treatment,

**USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION:** We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

**Treatment**: We may use or disclose health information to a healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

**Payment**: We may use or disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provided to you.

**Healthcare Operations**: We may use or 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, accreditations, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

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 disclosure 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 section 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, in 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 health 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 inferences in your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, dental supplies, xrays, or other similar forms of health information.

Marketing Health Related Services: We may use Patient Health Information (PHI) internally to offer goods and services we believe may be of interest. We may use (PHI) to contact you to inquire or survey about the patient experience at the location visited and the prospect of future services or improvements needed to continue as your services provider. We may also create and use aggregate patient Information that is not personally identifiable to understand more about the

common traits and interests of our patients. We may utilize one or more third-party service providers to send email,

text, surveys, or other communications to you. These services providers are prohibited from using your email address or other contact information for any purpose other than to send communications on our behalf.

It is our intention to only send communications that would be useful to you and that you want to receive, when you provide us with your email address as part of the registration setting process. Each time you receive an email or text, you will be provided the choice to "opt-out" of future communications by following the instructions provided in the communication or you can "opt-out" at any time by following the instructions provided.

Required by Law: We may 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, 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/safety or the health/ 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 authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution/ law enforcement officials having lawful custody protected health information of inmates/patients under certain circumstances.

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

Patient Rights: Access: You have the right to look at or get 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 you request unless we cannot practically 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 may 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.

**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 at least 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003, if you request.

**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 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. Questions and Complaints: If you want more information about our privacy practices, 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 made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information, you may complain to us within 180 days of the incident using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the US Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the US Department of Health and Human Services upon your 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 US Department of Health and Human Services.

304.424.6100 Fax: 304.424.5333

Contact Officer: Chris Gillespie