

This notice describes how your health information may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

Thank you for choosing Medical Center Clinic for your healthcare needs. Each time you visit one of our providers, we create a record of the care and services you receive to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This Notice applies to all of your records of your care received by a provider at Medical Center Clinic and explains how we may use and disclose your health information as well as your rights regarding the health information we maintain about you.

We are required by law to make sure that health information that identifies you is kept private; give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information; and follow the terms of the Notice currently in effect. **We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and this Notice at any time.**

WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION WITHOUT YOUR WRITTEN PERMISSION IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

Treatment:

We will use and disclose your health information to provide medical treatment to you, and to coordinate or manage your health care related services. This may include communicating with other health care providers regarding your treatment and coordinating and managing your health care with others. For example, we may use and disclose your health information when you need a prescription, lab work, an x-ray or other health care services. Also, we may use and disclose your health information when referring you to another health care provider.

Payment:

We may use and disclose your health information to bill and receive payment. For example: A bill may be sent to you or your insurance company. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you, as well as your diagnosis, procedures, and supplies used.

Operations:

We may use and disclose health information about you for health care operations. For example, we may use and disclose this information to review and improve the quality of care we provide, or the competence and qualifications of our professional staff. Or we may use and disclose this information to get your health plan to authorize services or referrals. We may also use and disclose this information as necessary for medical reviews, legal services and audits, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs and business planning and management.

Business Associates:

We may disclose your health information to our Business Associates to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations. For example, we may disclose health information about you to a company who bills insurance companies on our behalf to enable that company to help us obtain payment for the services we provide.

Appointment Reminders:

We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Treatment Alternatives or Health-Related Services:

We may use or disclose health information to tell you about health-related services or to recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you. Please let us know if you do not want us to contact regarding this information.

Research:

We may use and disclose information to **researchers** or to collect information in databases used for research. Research projects are reviewed and approved by a Review Board to protect the privacy of your health information.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

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

Workers Compensation:

We may disclose health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to worker's compensation or other similar programs established by law.

Military and Veterans:

If you are a member of the armed forces, or separated or discharged from the military services, we may disclose your health information as required by national military command authorities or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Public Health:

We may disclose your health information to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability.

Correctional Institution:

If you are an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose to the institution or agents thereof, health information necessary to provide you with healthcare; to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals; or for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Law Enforcement:

We may disclose health information in response to a valid subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process. We may also re-lease information for purposes of locating a suspect, a fugitive, a material witness, or missing person.

Health Oversight Activities:

Federal law makes provision for your health information to be released to an appropriate health oversight agency for activities such as audits, investigations, and inspections. This includes government agencies that oversee the healthcare system, government benefit programs, other government regulatory programs, and the civil rights laws.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

Information related to substance abuse, mental health, or sexually transmissible diseases may have special privacy protections. We will not disclose any information identifying an individual as being a patient or provide any health information relating to a patient's substance abuse, mental health, or sexually transmissible disease unless: 1) the patient consents in writing, or 2) a court order requires disclosure of the information, or 3) medical personnel need information to meet a medical emergency, or 4) qualified personnel use the information for the purpose of conducting scientific research, management audits, financial audits or program evaluation, or 5) it is necessary to report a crime or a threat to commit a crime, or 6) to report abuse or neglect as required by law.

OTHER USES OF HEALTH INFORMATION:

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this notice or law that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose health information about you for the reasons covered by your revocation. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION:

Right to Inspect and Copy Your Health Information:

You have the right to see and obtain copies of health information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes medical and billing records, but does not include psychotherapy notes. To inspect and copy your health information, you must submit your request in writing on the appropriate form to the Release of Information Department. If you request a copy of the health information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. *We may deny your request to see and obtain copies of your health information in certain, very limited circumstances.*

Right to Amend:

If you think that health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to correct or add to the information. You have the right to request that we make amendments to clinical, billing and other records used to make decisions about you. Your request must be in writing and must explain your reason(s) for the amendment. *We may deny your request if:* 1) the information was not created by us (unless you prove the creator of the information is no longer available to amend the record); 2) the information is not part of the records used to make decisions about you; 3) we believe the information is correct and complete; or 4) you would not have the right to see and copy the record as described above. We will tell you in writing the reasons for the denial and describe your rights to give us a written statement disagreeing with the denial. If we accept your request to amend the information, we will make reasonable efforts to inform others of the amendment, including persons you name who have received information about you and who need the amendment. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted on the proper form to the Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer or her designee. If we deny your request, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and any future disclosures of the disputed information will include your statement.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:

You have the right to request an "accounting" of certain disclosures of your protected health information. The accounting will not include (1) disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations; (2) disclosures made to you; (3) disclosures made pursuant to your authorization; (4) disclosures made to friends or family in your presence or because of an emergency; (5) disclosures for national security purposes; and (6) disclosures incidental to otherwise permissible disclosures.

To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer. Your request must state a time period of not longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, paper or electronic). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be provided free of charge. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

Right to Request Restrictions:

You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on your protected health information that we use or disclose for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on your protected health information that we disclose to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about a surgery that you had. Except as provided in the next paragraph, we are not required to agree to your request. However, if we do agree to the request, we will honor the restriction until you revoke it or we notify you.

We will comply with any restriction request if: (1) except as otherwise required by law, the disclosure is to the health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations (and is not for purposes of carrying out treatment); and (2) the protected health information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which the health care provider involved has been paid out-of-pocket in full.

To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to the Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer. In your request, you must state (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure, or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply—for example, disclosures to your spouse.

Right to Request Confidential Communications:

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail.

To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to the Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer. We will not ask you the reason for your request. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests if you clearly provide information that the disclosure of all or part of your protected information could endanger you.

Right to be Notified of a Breach:

You have the right to be notified in the event that we (or a Business Associate) discover a breach of unsecured protected health information.

Right to Obtain a Copy of This Notice:

You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy.

QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS

If you have questions about this Notice, or believe that your privacy rights have been violated, please contact Sharon Hoyle, CHC, CHPC, CPC, Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer toll free at 1-866-822-3571, by e-mail at privacy.officer@medicalcenterclinic.com, or by U.S. Mail at:

Medical Center Clinic
Attn: Sharon Hoyle, Corporate Compliance and Privacy Officer
8333 N. Davis Hwy
Pensacola, FL 32514

You have the right to file a written complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.