

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 1, 2013, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of the 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 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 by 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, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment for 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.

Business Associates: We may use and disclose your health information with business associates to perform functions on our practice's behalf, if the business associate has signed an agreement to protect the confidentiality of the 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 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 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 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 of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up medical devices, medical supplies, test results, or other similar forms of health information.

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 authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

Special Disclosure Situations: We may disclose your health information in special situations including Workers' Compensation cases, public health risks or threats, in response to law enforcement officials (court order, subpoena, warrant, summons, etc.), or coroners or medical examiners in determining a cause of death.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders.

Fundraising: We may use your health information in order to contact you for fundraising activities supported by our practice. You have the option to opt out of receiving these communications by sending a written request to the privacy officer.

Marketing Health-Related Services: We may use your health information in order to inform you of possible treatment services, benefits, options, or alternatives which may be of interest to you, unless we or a business associate receive financial remuneration in exchange for the communication in which case we must receive your written authorization unless the communication is made face-to-face or involves gifts of nominal value.

Marketing for which our practice or our business associates may receive remuneration, for a disclosure that constitutes a sale of protected health information, and in all other situations not described in this policy your written authorization will be obtained before our practice will use or disclose your health information to third parties outside our practice. You have the right to revoke such authorization by providing our practice with a written request to revoke the specific authorization.

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. Access to health information will be given as soon as possible, but never more than 60 days from request. You may request that we provide copies in a specific format rather 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 delivering copies (supplies, postage, and labor). If you prefer, we will prepare a summary/explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us by using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

Breach Notification: You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured protected health information.

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 September 17, 2012. If you request this accounting more than once in a twelve-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 emergency situations).

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.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this Notice on our web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this Notice in hard copy 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 to have us communicate with you by alternative means or location, 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 complaint 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 to us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service.

Privacy Officer: DeAnne Wyse

Telephone: 419 327-2273 **Fax:** 419 517-4418

Address: 3780 King Rd, Suite 2C, Toledo, OH 32617