

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

Effective as of May 1, 2014

Houston Female Urology

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 is NOT an authorization. This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we, our Business Associates and their subcontractors, may use and disclose your protected health information (PHI), verbal, written or electronic, to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations 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 condition and related health care services.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your physician, 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 the physician's practice, and any other use required by law.

Treatment: We may use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third party. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred, DME vendors, surgery centers/hospitals, referring physicians, family practitioner, physical therapists, home health providers, laboratories, worker comp adjusters and nurse case managers, etc. to ensure that the healthcare provider has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you.

Payment: Your protected health information may be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. For example, obtaining approval for a hospital stay, surgery, MRI or other diagnostic test, etc., may require that your relevant protected health information be disclosed to the health plan to obtain approval for the procedure and payment for treatment.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose, as-needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment, employee review, training of medical students, licensing, fundraising, and conducting or arranging for other healthcare operational activities. For example, we may disclose your protected health information to medical school students that see patients at our office. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when your physician is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment, and inform you about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. If we use or disclose your protected health information for fundraising activities, we will provide you the choice to opt out of those activities. You may also choose to opt back in.

We may use or disclose your protected health information 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, coroners, funeral directors, organ donation, research, criminal activity, military activity and national security, workers' compensation, inmates, and other required uses and disclosures. Under the law, we must make disclosures to you upon your request. Under the law, we must also disclose your protected health information when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements under Section 164.500.

USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures will be made **only with your consent, authorization** or opportunity to object unless required by law. Without your authorization, we are expressly prohibited to use or disclose your protected health information for marketing purposes. We may not sell your protected health information without your authorization. We may not use or disclose most psychotherapy notes contained in your protected health information. We will not use or disclose any of your protected health information that contains genetic information that will be used for underwriting purposes.

You may revoke the authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your physician or the physician's practice has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

YOUR RIGHTS

The following are statements of your rights with respect to your protected health information.

You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information (fees may apply) – Pursuant to your written request, you have the right to inspect or copy your protected health information whether in paper or electronic format. Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records: Psychotherapy notes, information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or used in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, protected health information restricted by law, information that is related to medical research in which you have agreed to participate, information whose disclosure may result in harm or injury to you or to another person, or information that was obtained under a promise of confidentiality. You must make your request in writing to Attn: HIPAA Compliance Officer, Houston Female Urology, 18400 Katy Freeway, Suite 530, Houston, Texas 77094. In Texas, we have up to 15 days to make your Protected Health Information available to you.

You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information – This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply. Your physician is not required to agree to your requested restriction except if you request that the physician not disclose protected health information to your health plan with respect to healthcare for which you have paid in full out of pocket. If we agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment. To request a restriction, you must make your request in writing to HIPAA Compliance Officer, Houston Female Urology, 18400 Katy Freeway, Suite 530, Houston, Texas 77094.

Out-of-Pocket Payments – If you paid for services that will not be filed with an Insurance plan provider (out-of-pocket), you have the right to ask that your Protected Health Information with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for the purposes of payment or healthcare operations.

You have the right to obtain an Electronic Copy of Electronic Medical Records – If your PHI is maintained in an electronic format (known as an electronic medical record or an electronic health record), you have a right to request that an electronic copy of your record be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity. We will make every effort to provide access to your PHI in the form or format you request if it is readily producible. Additionally, you have the availability to retrieve certain information through a Patient Portal.

You have the right to request to receive confidential communications – You have the right to request confidential communication 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 i.e. electronically.

You have the right to request an amendment to your protected health information – If you feel that Health Information we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our office. To request an amendment, you must request this in writing to HIPAA Compliance Officer, 18400 Katy Freeway, suite 530, Houston, Texas 77094. 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 – You have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures, paper or electronic, except for disclosures: pursuant to an authorization, for purposes of treatment, payment, healthcare operations; required by law,

You have the right to receive notice of a breach – We will notify you if your unsecured protected health information has been breached.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and we will notify you of such changes on the following appointment. We will also make available copies of our new notice if you wish to obtain one.

COMPLAINTS

You may complain to us or to 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 HIPAA Compliance Manager. **We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.**

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 protected health information. We are also required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. If you have any questions in reference to this form, please ask to speak with our Practice Manager (HIPAA Compliance Officer) in person or by phone.

Please sign the accompanying “Acknowledgment” form. Please note that by signing the Acknowledgment form you are only acknowledging that you have received or been given the opportunity to receive a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices.

PATIENT HIPAA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DESIGNATION DISCLOSURE FORM

I. Acknowledgement of Houston Female Urology's *Notice of Privacy Practices*:

By subscribing my name below, I acknowledge that I was provided a copy of the HIPAA Omnibus Notice of Privacy Practices and that I have read (or had the opportunity to read if I so chose) and understand the HIPAA Omnibus Notice of Privacy Practices and agree to its terms.

Name of Patient

Date of Birth

Signature of Patient/Parent/Guardian

Date

II. Designation of Certain Relatives, Close Friends and other Caregivers as my Personal Representative:

I agree that the practice may disclose certain of my health information to a Personal Representative of my choosing, since such person is involved with my health care or payment relating to my health care. In that case, the Practice will disclose only information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with my health care or payment relating to my health care.

Print Name:

Relationship to Patient

Print Name

Relationship to Patient

Print Name

Relationship to Patient

III. Request to Receive Confidential Communications by Alternative Means:

As provided by Privacy Rule Section 164.522(b), I hereby request that the Practice make all communications to me by the alternative means that I have listed below.

Patient Portal (secured):

I understand the option I have of retrieving my patient information via the Practice secured Patient Portal.

Home Telephone Number: _____

Ok to leave a message with detailed information.

Written Communication Address: _____

OK to mail to address listed above

Leave message with call back numbers only

E-mail me at: _____

Work Telephone Number: _____

OK to leave message with detailed information

Leave Message with call back numbers only

Mobile Number: _____

OK to leave message with detailed information

Leave Message with call back numbers only

Fax Communication: _____

OK to Fax at the number listed above

Name of Patient (Print)

Signature

Date