

Notice of Privacy Policy

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

MARK COX, D.M.D

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that health providers keep your medical and dental information private. The HIPAA Privacy Rule states that health providers must also post in a clear and prominent location and provide patients with a written Notice of Privacy Policy.

The privacy practices described are currently in effect. We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by law. If changes are made, a new Notice of Privacy Policy will be displayed in our office and provided to patients. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. Additional information may be obtained from the HIPAA Coordinator listed in our written HIPAA form.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

The following describes how information about you may be used in this dental office:

- **Treatment Services:** We may use or disclose your health information to all of our staff members, other dentists, your physicians, and/or other health care providers taking care of you.
- **Payment & Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you, to participate in quality assurance, disease management, training, licensing, and certification programs.
- **Marketing:** We will not use your health information for marketing purposes without your written consent.
- **Appointment Reminders:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders such as voicemail messages, email, postcards or letters.
- **Legal Requirements:** We may disclose your health information when required to do so by law.
- **Abuse or Neglect:** If abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected, we may use or disclose your health information to the appropriate governmental authorities
- **National Security:** When required, we may disclose military personnel health information to the Armed Forces. Information may be given to authorized federal officials when required for intelligence and national security activities. Health information for the inmates in custody of law enforcement may also be provided to correctional institutes

- **Family Members, Friends, and Other Involved in Care:** At your request, we may disclose your health information to a family member or other person if necessary to assist with your treatment and/or payment for services. Based on our judgment and per 164.522(a) of HIPAA we may disclose your information to these persons in the event of an emergency situation. We also may make information available so that another person may pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, records or x-rays for you. Your information may be disclosed to assist in notifying a family member, caregiver or personal representative of your location, condition or death.

Note: *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.*

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 practicably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information.

We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. If you request x-rays, there will be a fee for any copies of any films. You are not entitled to originals, only copies. Postage will be added if copies are to be mailed. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Details of all fees are available from the HIPAA Coordinator.

- **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 April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-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 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 as to 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 COMPLAINT

If you want more information about our privacy policy or have questions or concerns, please contact us. If you have concerns relating to a perceived violation of your privacy rights, to access to your health information, to amending or restricting the use or disclosure of your health information, or to requesting alternative means of communication, you may contact us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the DHHS. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the DHHS 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 with us or with the DHHS.

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