

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

VIENNA PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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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.

We respect our legal obligation to keep health information that identifies you private. We are obligated by law to give you notice of our privacy practices. This Notice describes how we protect your health information and what rights you have regarding it.

TREATMENT, PAYMENT, AND HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS

The most common reason why we use or disclose your health information is for treatment, payment or health care operations. Examples of how we use or disclose information for treatment purposes are: setting up an appointment for you; examining your teeth; prescribing medications and faxing them to be filled; referring you to another doctor or clinic for other health care or services; or getting copies of your health information from another professional that you may have seen before us. Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for payment purposes are: asking you about your health or dental care plans, or other sources of payment; preparing and sending bills or claims; and collecting unpaid amounts (either ourselves or through a collection agency or attorney). "Health care operations" mean those administrative and managerial functions that we have to do in order to run our office. Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for health care operations are: financial or billing audits; internal quality assurance; personnel decisions; participation in managed care plans; defense of legal matters; business planning; and outside storage of our records.

We may, without prior consent, use or disclose protected health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations in the following circumstances:

- In emergency treatment situations, if we attempt to obtain such consent as soon as reasonably practicable after the delivery of such treatment;
- If we are required by law to treat you, and we attempt to obtain such consent but are unable to obtain such consent; or
- If we attempt to obtain your consent but are unable to do so due to substantial barriers to communicating with you, and we determine that, in our professional judgement, your consent to receive treatment is clearly inferred from the circumstances.

USES AND DISCLOSURES FOR OTHER REASONS WITHOUT PERMISSION

In some limited situations, the law allows or requires us to use or disclose your health information without your permission. Not all of these situations will apply to us; some may never come up at our office at all. Such uses or disclosures are:

- when a state or federal law mandates that certain health information be reported for a specific purpose;
- for public health purposes, such as contagious disease reporting, investigation or surveillance; and notices to and from the federal Food and Drug Administration regarding drugs or medical devices;
- disclosures to governmental authorities about victims of suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- uses and disclosures for health oversight activities, such as for the licensing of doctors; for audits by Medicare or Medicaid; or for investigation of possible violations of health care laws;

disclosures for judicial and administrative proceedings, such as in response to subpoenas or orders of courts or administrative agencies;

disclosures for law enforcement purposes, such as to provide information about someone who is or is suspected to be a victim of a crime; to provide information about a crime at our office; or to report a crime that happened somewhere else;

disclosure to a medical examiner to identify a dead person or to determine the cause of death; or to funeral directors to aid in burial; or to organizations that handle organ or tissue donations;

uses or disclosures for health related research;

uses and disclosures to prevent a serious threat to health or safety;

uses or disclosures for specialized government functions, such as for the protection of the president or high ranking government officials; for lawful national intelligence activities; for military purposes; or for the evaluation and health of members of the foreign service;

disclosures of de-identified information;

disclosures relating to worker's compensation programs;

disclosures of a "limited data set" for research, public health, or health care operations;

incidental disclosures that are an unavoidable by-product of permitted uses or disclosures;

disclosures to "business associates" who perform health care operations for us and who commit to respect the privacy of your health information;

we may contact you to provide you with information about our sponsored activities, including fundraising programs, as permitted by applicable law. If you do not wish to receive such information from us, you may opt out of receiving the communications;

Unless you object, we will also share relevant information about your care with your family or friends who are helping you with your dental care.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES

Your authorization is required, with a few exceptions, for disclosure of psychotherapy notes, use or disclosure of PHI for marketing, and for the sale of PHI. We will also obtain your written authorization before using or disclosing your PHI for purposes other than those provided for in this Notice (or as otherwise permitted or require by law). You may revoke an authorization in writing at any time. Upon receipt of the written revocation, we will stop using or disclosing your PHI, except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance on the authorization.

APPOINTMENT REMINDERS

We may call, text, or email to remind you of scheduled appointments, or that it is time to make a routine appointment. We may also call, text, or email to notify you of other treatments or services available at our office that might help you. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will email and/or text you an appointment reminder, and/or leave you a reminder message on your home answering machine or with someone who answers your phone if you are not home.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

The law gives you many rights regarding your health information.

You have the right to request additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your PHI by submitting a written request to the contact person at the address, fax, or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice. Your written request must include (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. **We are not required to agree to your request except in the case where the disclosure is to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment** or health care operations, and the information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you, or a person on your behalf (other than the health plan), has paid our practice in full.

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations. You must make your request in writing to the contact person at the address, fax, or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request. We will accommodate these requests if they are reasonable, and if you pay us for any extra cost. However, if we are unable to contact you using the ways or locations you have requested we may contact you using the information we have.

You have the right to look at copies of your health information. By law, there are a few limited situations in which we can refuse to permit access or copying. For the most part, however, you will be able to review or have a copy of your health information within 30 days of asking us (or sixty days if the information is stored off-site). If you request information that we maintain on

paper, we may provide photocopies. If you request information that we maintain electronically, you have the right to an electronic copy. We have the right to charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for the cost of supplies and labor of copying, and for postage if you want copies mailed to you. If we deny your request, we will send you a written explanation, and instructions about how to get an impartial review of our denial if one is legally available. By law, we can have one 30 day extension of the time for us to give you access, photocopies, or electronic copies if we send you a written notice of the extension. If you want to review or get photocopies or electronic copies of your health information, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

You have the right to request that we amend your health information if you think that it is incorrect or incomplete. If we agree, we will amend the information within 60 days from when you ask us. We will send the corrected information to persons who we know got the wrong information, and others that you specify. If we do not agree, you can write a statement of your position, and we will include it with your health information along with any rebuttal statement that we may write. Once your statement of position and/or our rebuttal is included in your health information, we will send it along whenever we make a permitted disclosure of your health information. By law, we can have one 30 day extension of time to consider a request for amendment if we notify you in writing of the extension. If you want to ask us to amend your health information, send a written request, including your reasons for the amendment, to the office contact person at the address, fax or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

You have the right to receive a list of the disclosures that we have made of your health information within the past six years (or a shorter period if you want). By law, the list will not include: disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; disclosures with your authorization; incidental disclosures; disclosures required by law; and some other limited disclosures. You are entitled to one such list per year without charge. If you want more frequent lists, you will have to pay for them in advance. We will usually respond to your request within 60 days of receiving it, but by law we can have one 30 day extension of time if we notify you of the extension in writing. If you want a list, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

You will receive notifications of breaches of your unsecured protected health information as required by law.

You may receive additional paper copies of this Notice of Privacy Practices upon request. It does not matter whether you got one electronically or in paper form already. If you want additional paper copies, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

OUR NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

By law, we must abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices until we choose to change it. We reserve the right to change this notice at any time as allowed by law. If we change this Notice, the new privacy practices will apply to your health information that we already have as well as to such information that we may generate in the future. If we change our Notice of Privacy Practices, we will post the new notice in our office, have copies available in our office, and post it on our Web site.

COMPLAINTS

If you think that we have not properly respected the privacy of your health information, you are free to complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you if you make a complaint. If you want to complain to us, send a written complaint to the office contact person at the address, fax or E-mail shown at the beginning of this Notice. If you prefer, you can discuss your complaint in person or by phone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about our privacy practices, call or visit the office contact person at the address or phone number shown at the beginning of this Notice.

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703-938-6600

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I understand that, under the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), I have certain rights to privacy regarding my protected health information. I understand that this information can and will be used to:

- . Conduct, plan and direct my treatment and follow-up among the multiple healthcare providers who may be involved in that treatment directly and indirectly
- . Obtain payment from third-party payers
- . Conduct normal healthcare operations such as quality assessments and physician certifications.

I acknowledge that I have received your Notice of Privacy Practices containing a more complete description of the uses and disclosures of my health information. I understand that this organization has the right to change its Notice of Privacy Practices from time to time and that I may contact this organization at any time at the address above to obtain a current copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices.

I understand that I may request in writing that you restrict how my private information is used or disclosed to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations. I also understand you are not required to agree to my requested restrictions, but if you do agree then you are bound to abide by such restrictions.

Patient Name: _____

Signature: _____

Relationship to Patient: _____

Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

I attempted to obtain the patient's signature in acknowledgement on this notice of Privacy Practices Acknowledgement, but was unable to do so as documented below:

Date: _____

Initials: _____

Reason: _____