

# NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

## EPIPHANY! COUNSELING & WELLNESS CENTER

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

We are required by law to provide you with this notice that explains our privacy practices in regards to your medical information and how we may use and disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment, and for health care operations, as well as for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. You have certain rights regarding the privacy of your protected health information, also described in this notice.

The enclosed paragraphs describe ways that we use and disclose your protected health information: we provide an example for each category, but those examples are not meant to be exhaustive. All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose your protected health information fall within one of these categories.

Although your health record is the physical property of the practitioner or facility that compiled it, the information belongs to you.

### How and When We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information

- ☞ **Treatment.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. We will also disclose your health information to other physicians who may be treating you. Additionally, we may disclose your health information to another physician whom we have requested to be involved in your care. For example—we would disclose your health information to a specialist to whom we have referred you for a diagnosis to help in your treatment.
- ☞ **Payment.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to obtain payment for the health-care services we provide you. For example—we may provide information with a bill to a third-party payer which identifies you, your diagnosis, procedures performed, and supplies used in rendering the service.
- ☞ **Health Care Operations.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to support the business activities of our practice. For example—we will use medical information about you to review our treatment and services or to evaluate our performance while caring for you. We may also disclose your health information to third-party business associates who perform billing, consulting, or other services for our practice.
- ☞ **Treatment Alternatives.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to tell you about or recommend possible alternative treatments or options that may be of interest to you.
- ☞ **Others Involved in Your Care.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to a family member, a relative, a close friend, or any other person you identify that is involved in your medical care or payment for care.
- ☞ **Research.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to researchers, provided the research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.
- ☞ **As Required by Law.** We will use and disclose your protected health information when required to by federal, state, or local law.
- ☞ **To Avert a Serious Threat to Public Health or Safety.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to public health authorities permitted to collect or receive the information for the purpose of controlling disease, injury, or disability. If directed by the health authority, we will also disclose your health information to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.



- ☞ **Worker's Compensation.** We will use and disclose your protected health information for worker's compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- ☞ **Inmates.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to a correctional institution or law enforcement official if you are an inmate of that correctional institution or under the custody of the law enforcement official. This information would be necessary for the institution to provide you with healthcare; to protect the health and safety of others; or for the safety and security of the correctional institution.
- ☞ **Appointment Reminders.** We will use and disclose your protected health information to contact you as a reminder about scheduled appointments.

## **Your Health Information Rights**

- ☞ **A Paper Copy of This Notice.** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice upon request. You may obtain a copy by asking our receptionist at your next visit or by calling and asking us to mail you a copy.
- ☞ **Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy the protected health information that we maintain about you in our designated record set for as long as we maintain that information. This designated record set includes your medical and billing records, as well as any other records we use for making decisions about you. **Any psychotherapy notes that may have been included in records we received about you are not available for your inspection or copying, by law.** Fees may apply for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies used in fulfilling your request. If you wish to inspect or copy your medical information, you must submit your request in writing to our privacy officer:

**Attention: Privacy Officer  
4559 Old William Penn Hwy, Ste 100  
Murrysville, PA 15668**

You may mail your request or bring it to our office. We will have 30 days to respond to your request for information that maintain at our practice site. If the information is stored off-site, we are allowed up to 60 days to respond but must inform you of this delay.

- ☞ **Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction of how we use or disclose your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. For example—you could request that we not disclose information about a prior treatment to a family member or friend who may be involved in your care or payment for care. Your request must be made in writing to our practice manager.

*We are not required to agree to your request if we feel that it is in your best interest to use or disclose that information. If we do agree, we will comply with your request except for emergency treatment.*

- ☞ **Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request a list of the disclosures of your health information we have made outside of our practice that were not for treatment, payment, or health care operations. Your request must be in writing and must indicate the time period for the requested information. You may not request information for any dates prior to April 14, 2003, nor for a period of time greater than seven years (our legal obligation to retain information).

Your first request for a list of disclosures within a 12-month period will be free. If you request an additional list within 12 months of the first request, we may charge you a fee for the costs of providing the subsequent list. We will notify you of such costs and afford you the opportunity to withdraw your request before costs are incurred.



- **Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request how we communicate with you to preserve your privacy. For example—you may request that we call you only at your work number, or by mail at a special address or postal box. Your request must be made in writing and must specify how or where we are able to contact you. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.
- **File a Complaint.** If you believe we have violated your medical information rights, you have the right to file a complete with our practice or directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

## **Requesting an Amendment**

You have the right to request that we amend your medical information if you feel that it is incomplete or inaccurate. You must make this request in writing to our practice manager, stating exactly what information you believe is incomplete or inaccurate, and the reasoning that supports your request. We are permitted to deny your request for an amendment of your medical information if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request.

## **Denial of Requests**

We may deny your request for an amendment if:

- \* The information was not created by us, or the person who created it is no longer available to make the amendment.
- \* The information is not part of the record which you are permitted to inspect and copy.
- \* The information is not part of the designated record set kept by this practice.
- \* It is an opinion of the health care provider.
- \* The health care provider feels the information is accurate and complete.

## **Uses or Disclosures Not Covered**

*Uses or disclosures of your health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us may only be made with your written authorization. You may revoke such authorization in writing at any time and we will no longer disclose health information about you for the reasons stated in your written authorization. Disclosures made in reliance on the authorization prior to the revocation are not affected by the revocation.*

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*If you have questions or would like additional information, you may contact our Privacy Officer.*

*Effective Date—April 14, 2003*

