

These permitted disclosures include: emergency circumstances; identification of the body of a deceased person, or to assist in determining the cause of death; public health needs; research, generally limited to when a waiver of authorization is independently approved by a privacy board or Institutional Review Board; oversight of the health care system; judicial and administrative proceedings; limited law enforcement activities; and activities related to national defense and security. There are specific state laws that required the disclosure of health care information related to Hepatitis C, and AIDS. Where the state laws are more stringent than HIPAA Privacy Standard, the state laws will prevail.

All of these disclosures could occur previously under former laws and regulations however, The Privacy Standard establishes new safeguards and limits. If there is no other law requiring that your information be disclosed, we will use our professional judgments to decide whether to disclose any information, reflecting our own policies and ethical principals.

On some occasions we may furnish your PHI to a third party. This could be an insurance company for the purpose of payment or another health care provider for further treatment or additional services. Although we will institute a "chain of trust" contract and monitor our business associates' contracts with us, we cannot absolutely guarantee that they will not use or disclose your PHI in such a way as to violate the Privacy Standard.

Although the law requires a signed and dated Privacy Notice, this office does not demand that you sign this agreement as a condition of receiving care. It is the law that your rights are communicated in this manner.

It is our practice to retain information about non-healthcare related requests for your health care information for a period of six years.

In complying with the Privacy Standard, we have appointed a Privacy Officer, trained our Privacy Officer and the staff in the law, and implemented policies to protect your PHI. We have instituted privacy and security processes to guard and protect your PHI. This office is taking and continues to monitor and improve steps for the protection of your information and to remain in compliance with the law.

Please sign below and date the form indicating that you have received this Privacy Notice.

Thank you,

Signature of Patient or Personal Representative

Date: _____

Name printed