

HIPAA - NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

ANTI-AGING & WELLNESS CENTER, 4000 Stockdale Hwy, Bakersfield, CA 93309, 661-325-7452 * 276 S. Mill St, Tehachapi, CA 93561

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES: PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, SIGN AND DATE.

This acknowledges that you have reviewed thoroughly, understand & have received this Notice of Privacy Practices.

PATIENT NAME: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____ **EFFECTIVE DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE OF PATIENT OR PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE: _____ **DATE:** _____

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED & DISCLOSED & HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT SHIVINDER S. DEOL MD.

OUR OBLIGATIONS: We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of **Protected Health Information (PHI)**
- Give you this notice of our legal duties & privacy practices regarding **Health Information (HI)** about you
- Follow the terms of our notice that is currently in effect

HOW WE MAY USE & DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION (HI):

The following describes the ways we may use & disclose HI that identifies you. Except for the purposes described below, we will use & disclose HI only with your written permission. You may revoke such permission at any time by writing to our Practice Privacy Officer.

For Treatment. We may use & disclose HI for your treatment & to provide you with treatment-related health care services. For example, we may disclose HI to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel, including people outside our office, who are involved in your medical care & need the information to provide you with medical care.

For Payment. We may use & disclose HI so that we or others may bill & receive payment from you, an insurance company or a third party for the treatment & services you received. For example, we may give your health plan information about you so that they will pay for your care.

For Health Care Operations. We may use & disclose HI for health care operations purposes. These uses & disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care & to operate & manage our office. For example, we may use & disclose information to make sure the obstetrical or gynecological care you receive is of the highest quality. We also may share information with other entities that have a relationship with you (Ex. your health plan) for their health care operation activities.

Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives & Health Related Benefits & Services. We may use & disclose HI to contact you to remind you of an appointment with us. We also may use & disclose HI to tell you about treatment alternatives or health-related services that may be of interest to you.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. When appropriate, we may share HI with a person who is involved in your medical care or payment for your care, such as your family or a close friend. We also may notify your family about your location or general condition or disclose such information to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort.

Research. Under certain circumstances, we may use & disclose HI for research. For example, a research project may involve comparing the health of patients who received one treatment to those who received another, for the same condition. Before we use or disclose HI for research, the project will go through a special approval process. Even without special approval, we may permit researchers to look at records to help them identify patients who may be included in their research project or for other similar purposes, as long as they do not remove or take a copy of any HI.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

As Required by Law. We will disclose HI when required to do so by international, federal, state or local law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use & disclose HI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health & safety or the health & safety of the public or another person. Disclosures will be made only to someone who may be able to help prevent the threat.

Business Associates (BA). We may disclose HI to our BA that perform functions on our behalf or provide us with services if the information is necessary for such functions or services. Ex. we may use another company to perform billing services on our behalf. All of our BA are obligated to protect the privacy of your information & are not allowed to use or disclose any information other than as specified in our contract.

Organ & Tissue Donation. If you are an organ donor, we may use or release HI to organizations that handle organ procurement or other entities engaged in procurement, banking or transportation of organs or tissues to facilitate organ, eye or tissue donation & transplantation.

Military & Veterans. If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release HI as required by military command authorities. We also may release HI to the appropriate military authority if you are a member of a foreign military.

Workers' Compensation (WC). We may release HI for WC or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Public Health Risks. We may disclose HI for public health activities. These activities generally include disclosures to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; report births & deaths; report child abuse or neglect; report reactions to medications or problems with products; notify people of recalls of products they may be using; a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; & the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

Health Oversight Activities (HOA). We may disclose HI to a HOA agency for activities authorized by law. These HOA include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, & licensure. These HOA are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, & compliance with civil rights laws.

Data Breach Notification Purposes. We may disclose your PHI to provide legally required notices of unauthorized access to or disclosure of your HI.

Lawsuits & Disputes. If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose HI in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose HI in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement. We may release HI if asked by a law enforcement official if the information is: (1) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; (2) limited information to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; (3) about the victim of a crime even if, under certain very limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; (4) about a death we believe may be the

result of criminal conduct; (5) about criminal conduct on our premises; & (6) in an emergency to report a crime, the location of the crime or victims, or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

Coroners, Medical Examiners & Funeral Directors. We may release HI to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We also may release HI to funeral directors as necessary.

National Security & Intelligence Activities. We may release HI to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter-intelligence, & other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services for the President & Others. We may disclose HI to authorized federal officials, so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons or foreign heads of state or to conduct special investigations.

Inmates or Individuals in Custody. If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release HI to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be if necessary: (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health & safety or the health & safety of others; or (3) the safety & security of the correctional institution.

USES & DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE US TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT & OPT OUT

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your PHI that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

Disaster Relief. We may disclose your PHI to disaster relief organizations that seek your PHI to coordinate your care or notify family & friends of your location or condition in a disaster. We will provide you with an opportunity to agree or object to such a disclosure whenever we practically can do so.

YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION (WA) IS REQUIRED FOR OTHER USES & DISCLOSURES

The following uses & disclosures of your PHI will be made only with your WA:

- Uses & disclosures of PHI for marketing purposes; &
- Disclosures that constitute a sale of your PHI

Other uses & disclosures of PHI not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your WA. If you do give us an authorization, you may revoke it at any time by submitting a written revocation to our Privacy Officer & we will no longer disclose PHI under the authorization. But disclosure that we made in reliance on your authorization before you revoked it will not be affected by the revocation.

YOUR RIGHTS: You have the following rights regarding HI we have about you:

Right to Inspect & Copy. You have a right to inspect & copy HI that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. This includes medical & billing records, other than psychotherapy notes. To inspect & copy this HI, you must make your request, in writing, to us. We have up to 30 days to make your PHI available to you & we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may not charge you a fee if you need the information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state or federal needs-based benefit program. We may deny your request in certain limited circumstances. If we do deny your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional not involved in the denial of your request. We will comply with the outcome of review.

Right to an Electronic Copy of Electronic Medical Records (EMR). If your PHI is maintained in an electronic format (known as an EMR or an electronic health record), you have the 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 in such form or format. If the PHI is not readily producible in the form or format you request your record will be provided in either our standard electronic format or if you do not want this form or format, a readable hard copy form. We may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for the labor associated with transmitting the EMR.

Right to Get Notice of a Breach. You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured PHI.

Right to Amend. If you feel that HI we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment of the information kept by or for our office. To request an amendment, you must make your request, in writing to us.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we made of HI for purposes other than treatment, payment & health care operations or for which you provided WA. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must make your request in writing to us.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the HI we use or disclose for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the HI we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not share information about a particular diagnosis or treatment with your spouse. To request a restriction, you must make your request, in writing, to us. We are not required to agree to your request unless you are asking us to restrict the use & disclosure of your PHI to a health plan for payment or health care operation purposes & such information you wish to restrict pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you have paid us "out-of-pocket" in full. If we agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

Out-of-Pocket-Payments. If you paid out-of-pocket (or in other words, you have requested that we not bill your health plan) in full for a specific item or service, you have the right to ask that your PHI with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations, & we will honor that request.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you by mail or at work. To request confidential communications, you must make your request, in writing, to us. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. You may obtain a copy of this notice at our web site, www.antiagingwellnesscenter.com or www.comprehensivecareforwomen.com. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact us.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE: We reserve the right to change this notice & make the new notice apply to HI we already have as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of our current notice at our office. The notice will contain the effective date on page one.

COMPLAINTS: If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health & Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact us. All complaints must be made in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint. For more information on HIPAA privacy requirements, HIPAA electronic transactions & code sets regulations & the proposed HIPAA security rules, please visit ACOG's web site, www.acog.org, or call (202) 863-2584.**