

NOTICE OF PATIENT INFORMATION PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED OR DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your Protected Health Information (PHI) to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations, and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your PHI. PHI about you is maintained as a written and/or electronic record. Specifically, it individually identifies you and relates to (1) Your past, present, or future physical or mental health; (2) Related healthcare services; or (3) Your past, present or future payment for your healthcare.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and provide you with a copy of this notice. We are required to abide by the terms of this notice. We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice, and make the revised or changed notice effective for all health information that we maintain. Any changes to this notice will be posted in our facilities and on our website. Paper copies will be available upon request.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

For Treatment: We may use health information about you to provide, coordinate or manage your healthcare and related services. We may disclose health information about you to your doctor, staff or others who are involved in taking care of you and your health. For example, your doctor may be treating you for a heart condition, which we may need to know about to determine the best plan of care.

For Payment: We may use and disclose health information, as needed, about you so the treatment and services you receive may be billed, and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, this may include certain activities that your health insurance plan may undertake before it approved or pays for the healthcare services we recommend for you, such as making a determination of eligibility or coverage of health benefits.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose, as-needed, your protected health information for our day-to-day health care operations to ensure that you and other patients receive quality care. For example, we may use or disclose PHI relating to the evaluation of patient care, business management activities, quality assessment and improvement, employee reviews, legal services, and auditing functions. All disclosures of your PHI will be limited to the minimum necessary or that which is contained in a limited data set (e.g. PHI that excludes certain identifiers including demographic information, photographs, etc.)

OTHER ALLOWABLE USES OR DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION:

Special Notices: We may contact you at the address and phone number you provide about scheduled or canceled appointments, billing and/or payment matters. We may also contact you about health related services or locations that may be of interest to you.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when required to do so by federal or state law. We must also disclose your protected health information when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with requirements under the Privacy Rule.

Judicial and Administrative Proceeding: We may disclose your health information in the course of an administrative or judicial proceeding in response to a court order. Under most circumstances, when the request is made through a subpoena, a discovery request, or involves another type of administrative order, your authorization will be obtained before disclosure is permitted.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your health information for law enforcement purposes.

Worker's Compensation: Both State and federal law allow, without your authorization, the disclosure of your health information that is reasonably related to a worker's compensation injury. These programs may provide benefits for worker-related injuries or illness.

Others Involved in Your Healthcare: Unless you object, we may disclose to a family member, relative or close friend your PHI that directly relates to that person's involvement in your care. If you have a personal representative, such as a legal guardian (or an executor or administrator of your estate after your death), we will treat that person as if that person is you with respect to disclosures of PHI.

Business Associates: We may disclose PHI to our business associates who perform functions on behalf or provide us services if the PHI is necessary for those functions or services. For example, we may use a shredding company to destroy paper medical records. To protect your health information, we may require the business associate to appropriately safeguard your information.

USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

If you do authorize us to use or disclose your health information for another purpose, you may revoke your authorization in writing at any time. Your decision to revoke authorization will not affect or reverse any use or disclosure that occurred before you notified us of your decision.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS:

You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information: You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your healthcare information. This includes health and billing records. Your request to inspect and obtain a copy of your healthcare information must be made in writing to:

Alves & Martinez Physical Therapy
ATTN: Medical Records
708 57th Street, Sacramento, CA 95819

In addition, we may charge you a reasonable fee to cover our expenses for copying your health information.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy your PHI in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed health care professional chosen by our practice will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who participated in the original decision to deny the request for access.

Right to an electronic copy of electronic medical records: If your PHI is maintained in an electronic format (known as an electronic medical record or an electronic health record), you have the right to request an electronic copy of your record be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity.

You have the right to request an amendment to your protected health information: If you believe the health information we maintain about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. An amendment request must be made in writing, and must provide reasons to support your request. In certain cases we may deny your request for an amendment if: Your request is not in writing or does not include reasons to support the request; the medical record was not created by us, the person who created the information is no longer available to make amendment, the record is not part of the health information we maintain, is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy, or is accurate and complete.

You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information: You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the health information we disclose about you to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or payment for your care. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply. We are not required to agree to your requested restriction. If we agree, we will comply unless we terminate our agreement or the information is needed to provide emergency treatment to you.

Out-of-pocket payments: If you paid out-of-pocket in full for a specific item or service, you have the right to request that your PHI with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or healthcare operations. We are required to agree to your request.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures: You have the right to receive a list of disclosures of your PHI that we have made, except for disclosures pursuant to an authorization, for purposes of treatment, payment, healthcare operations, or required by law. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than 6 years before your request.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice: Even if you agreed to receive the notice electronically.

HOW TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS:

To exercise your rights described in this notice, you must submit your request in writing.

Complaints: If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our practice. We request that you file your complaint in writing so we may better assist in the investigation of your complaint. You may also send a written complaint to the US Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint. If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions please contact:

Alves & Martinez Physical Therapy & Athletic Performance

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