



## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

---

**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.**

---

### **Who Will Follow This Notice**

ID Care® (“ID Care®” or “We”), the employees and the staff of each ID Care®, provide healthcare to patients, together with other healthcare providers and other organizations. This Notice applies to the following persons and entities, who have agreed to be bound by this Notice:

- All ID Care® employees, staff and other personnel, who may need to access your information to perform their job functions.
- Health care professionals who provide health care services at ID Care®.
- Any member of a volunteer group we allow to help you while you are receiving care.

### **Our Pledge Regarding Medical Information**

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. Protecting medical information about you is important. We create a record of the care and services you receive while in our care. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain regulatory requirements. This Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. This Notice also describes your rights, and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of your medical information. We are required by law to:

- Keep medical information that identifies you private;
- Give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you; and
- Follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect.

### **How We May Use and Disclose Medical Information About You**

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose medical information. For each category of uses or disclosures, we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

**Treatment.** We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to healthcare providers who are involved in taking care of you. We may share medical information about you in order to coordinate the different things you need, such as prescriptions, lab work and x-rays.



**Payment.** We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive maybe billed to, and payment may be collected from, you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health information to insurance carrier so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for treatment you receive. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your insurance will cover the treatment.

**Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose medical information about you for our health care operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use medical information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, and other personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the medical information we have with medical information from other facilities to compare how we are doing and see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without knowing the identities of the specific patients. We may disclose your medical information to another health care professional that you have seen so they may improve their quality or costs of care.

**Health Information Exchange (HIE).** We may make your individual medical information available to a local, regional and/or national Health Information Exchange (“HIE”) including, but not limited to, the National Health Information Network (“NHIN”). An HIE is a state and/or federal government sponsored initiative that provides a mechanism for healthcare providers in our community to share information electronically, all with a common goal of improving the quality of care for our patients while protecting the privacy and security of your medical information.

**Appointment Reminders.** We may use and disclose medical information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or medical care at ID Care®.

**Treatment Alternatives.** We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

**Health-Related Benefits and Services.** We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** We may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. Unless there is a specific written request from you to the contrary.



**Research.** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose medical information about you for research purposes. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of medical information, trying to balance the research needs with patients' need for privacy of their medical information. Before we use or disclose medical information for research, the project will have been approved through this research approval process, but we may disclose medical information about you to people preparing to conduct a research project, for example, to help them look for patients with specific medical needs, so long as the medical information they review does not leave our site. We will almost always ask for your specific permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are.

**Business Associates.** There are some services provided for our organization through contracts with an outside organization, also known as a business associate. Examples include billing services to submit your claim to the insurance company for payment, transcription services to transcribe dictated reports from the health professionals caring for you in the hospital and copy services for making copies of your health record. When these services are performed by a business associate, we may disclose your information to our business associates so they can perform the job we have asked them to do.

**As Required by Law.** We will disclose medical information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

**Averting a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose medical information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

**Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release medical information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military.

**Workers' Compensation.** We may release medical information about you for Workers' Compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

**Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

**Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose medical information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose medical information about you 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 (which may include written notice to you) or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.



**Public Health Risks.** We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:

- to report reactions to medications or problems with products;
- to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition;
- to notify 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;
- to prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
- to report births and deaths;
- to report the abuse or neglect of children, elders and dependent adults;
- to notify emergency response employees regarding possible exposure to HIV/AIDS, to the extent necessary to comply with state and federal laws.

**Law Enforcement.** If permitted by applicable law, we may release medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
- to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person;
- about the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement;
- about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
- about criminal conduct at the hospital; and
- in emergency circumstances to report a crime, the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

**Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official, if the release is necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

**Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams.** We may disclose health information to a multidisciplinary personnel team relevant to the prevention, identification, management or treatment of an abused child and the child's parents, or elder abuse and neglect.

**Note on Other Restrictions.** Please be aware that certain federal or state laws may have more strict requirements on how we use and disclose your medical information. If there are stricter requirements, even for the purposes listed above, we will not disclose your medical information without your written permission, or as otherwise permitted or required by such laws. For example, we will not disclose your HIV test results without obtaining your written permission, except as permitted by state law. We may also be restricted by law to obtain your written permission to use and disclose your information related to treatment for certain conditions such as mental illness, or alcohol or drug abuse.



## **Your Rights Regarding Medical Information About You**

You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

**Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy the information that we have about you that may be used to make decisions about you and your care, including your medical and billing records. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances.

**Right to Amend.** If you feel that information, we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request. We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
- is not part of the medical information kept by us.
- is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
- is accurate and complete.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an “Accounting of Disclosures.” This is a list of the disclosures we made of medical information about you other than disclosures for certain purposes, such as for treatment, payment and health care operations purposes, as those functions are described above, or any disclosures that have been specifically authorized by you. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing.

**Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations purposes. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. We are not required to agree to your request, except to the extent that you request us to restrict disclosure to a health plan or insurer for payment or health care operations purposes if you, or someone else on your behalf (other than the health plan or insurer), has paid for the item or service out of pocket in full. Even if you request this special restriction, we can disclose the information to a health plan or insurer for purposes of treating you. If we agree to another special restriction, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.



**Right to Authorize or Refuse to Authorize Other Uses and Disclosures of Medical Information.**

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us your authorization to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your authorization, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

**Changes To This Notice**

We reserve the right to change this Notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future.

**Complaints**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us. All complaints must be submitted in writing. We will take no action against you and you will not be penalized for filing a complaint.