

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.

I. IT IS MY LEGAL DUTY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI). The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as well as state laws and regulations require us to insure that your PHI is kept private. In my office, the PHI includes your Patient Information and Confirmation forms, signed authorization forms, release of information forms, diagnosis, treatment plans required by ethics and insurance companies, dates of service and payment records. **Your PHI does not contain treatment notes taken during therapy sessions, psychological reports or personal information obtained in treatment, evaluation or testing sessions.** This information is covered by the doctor-patient privilege laws covered in **Explanation of Treatment Process and Authorization to Treat**. I am required to provide you with this Notice about my privacy procedures. This Notice must explain when, why, and how I would use and/or disclose your PHI. Use of PHI means when I share, apply, utilize, examine, or analyze information within my practice. Disclosure of PHI is when I release, transfer, give, or otherwise reveal it to a third party outside my practice. With some exceptions, I may not use or disclose more of your PHI than is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the use or disclosure is made; however, I am always legally required to follow the privacy practices described in this Notice.

Please note that I reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and my privacy policies at any time. Any changes will apply to PHI already on file with me. Before I make any important changes to our policies, I will immediately change this Notice and post a new copy of it in my office and on my website. You may also request a copy of this Notice from me, or you can view a copy of it in my office or on our website, www.drncancydavis.com.

II. HOW I WILL USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PHI. I may use and disclose your PHI for several different reasons. Some of the uses or disclosures will require your prior written authorization; others, however, will not. Below you will find the different categories of our uses and disclosures, with some examples.

A. Uses and Disclosures Related to Treatment, Payment, or Health Care Operations Do Not Require Your Prior Written Consent. I may use and disclose your PHI without your consent for the following reasons:

1. To obtain payment for treatment. I may use and disclose your PHI to bill and collect payment for the treatment and services I provided you. *Example:* I might send information regarding your diagnosis, treatment plan and treatment progress to your insurance company or health plan in order to get payment for the health care services that I have provided to you. **However, I will not disclose psychotherapy notes to anyone without your authorization, unless required by law.** I could also provide your PHI to business associates, such as billing companies, claims processing companies, and others that process health care claims for my office.
2. Other disclosures. *Examples:* Your consent isn't required if you need emergency treatment provided that I attempt to get your consent after treatment is rendered. In the event that I try to get your consent but you are unable to communicate with me (for example, if you are unconscious or in severe pain) but I think that you would consent to such treatment if you could, I may disclose your PHI.

B. Certain Other Uses and Disclosures Do Not Require Your Consent. I may use and/or disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization for the following reasons:

1. When disclosure is required by federal, state, or local law; judicial, board, or administrative proceedings; or, law enforcement. *Example:* I may make a disclosure to the appropriate officials when a law requires me to report information to government agencies, law enforcement personnel and/or in an administrative proceeding.
2. If disclosure is compelled by a party to a proceeding before a court of an administrative agency pursuant to its lawful authority.
3. If disclosure is required by a search warrant lawfully issued to a governmental law enforcement agency.
4. If disclosure is compelled by the patient or the patient's representative pursuant to Virginia law or regulation or to corresponding federal statutes or regulations, such as the Privacy Rule that requires this Notice.
5. To avoid harm. I may provide PHI to law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or mitigate a serious threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.
6. If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you are in such mental or emotional condition as to be dangerous to yourself or the person or property of others, and if I determine that disclosure is necessary to prevent the threatened danger.
7. If disclosure is mandated by the Virginia Abuse and Neglect Reporting law. For example, if I have a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect.
8. If disclosure is mandated by the Virginia Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Reporting law. For example, if I have a reasonable suspicion of elder abuse or dependent adult abuse.
9. If disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you tell me of a serious/imminent threat of physical violence by you against a reasonably identifiable victim or victims.

10. For public health activities. *Example:* In the event of your death, if a disclosure is permitted or compelled, I may need to give the county coroner information about you.
11. For specific government functions. *Examples:* I may disclose PHI of military personnel and veterans under certain circumstances. Also, I may disclose PHI in the interests of national security, such as protecting the President of the United States or assisting with intelligence operations.
12. For Workers' Compensation purposes. I may provide PHI in order to comply with Workers' Compensation laws.
13. Appointment reminders and health related benefits or services. *Examples:* I may use PHI to provide appointment reminders. I may use PHI to give you information about alternative treatment options, or other health care services or benefits I offer.
14. If an arbitrator or arbitration panel compels disclosure, when arbitration is lawfully requested by either party, pursuant to subpoena *duces tecum* (e.g., a subpoena for documents) or any other provision authorizing disclosure in a proceeding before an arbitrator or arbitration panel.
15. I am permitted to contact you, without your prior authorization, to provide appointment reminders or information about alternative or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.
16. If disclosure is required or permitted to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law. *Example:* When compelled by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to investigate or assess my compliance with HIPAA regulations.
17. If disclosure is otherwise specifically required by law.

C. Certain Uses and Disclosures Require You to Have the Opportunity to Object. Disclosures to family, friends, or others. I may provide your PHI to a family member, friend, or other individual who you indicate is involved in your care or responsible for the payment for your health care, in emergency situations. Retroactive consent may be obtained in these emergency situations.

D. Other Uses and Disclosures Require Your Prior Written Authorization. In any other situation not described in Sections II A, II B, and II C above, I will request your written authorization before using or disclosing any of your PHI. Even if you have signed an authorization to disclose your PHI, you may later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop any future uses and disclosures (assuming that I haven't taken any action subsequent to the original authorization) of your PHI by me.

III. WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR PHI. These are your rights with respect to your PHI:

A. The Right to See and Get Copies of Your PHI. In general, you have the right to see your PHI that is in my possession, or to get copies of it; however, you must request

it in writing. You will receive a response from me within 30 days of my receiving your written request. Under certain circumstances, I may feel that I must deny your request, but if I do, I will give you, in writing, the reasons for the denial. I will also explain your right to have my denial reviewed.

If you ask for copies of your PHI, I will charge you not more than \$.25 per page. I may see fit to provide you with a summary or explanation of the PHI, but only if you agree to it, as well as to the cost, in advance.

B. The Right to Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI. You have the right to ask that I limit how I use and disclose your PHI. While I will consider your request, I am not legally bound to agree. If I do agree to your request, I will put those limits in writing and abide by them except in emergency situations. You do not have the right to limit the uses and disclosures that I am legally required or permitted to make.

C. The Right to Choose How I Send Your PHI to You. It is your right to ask that your PHI be sent to you at an alternate address (for example, sending information to your work address rather than your home address) or by an alternate method (for example, via email instead of by regular mail). I am obliged to agree to your request providing that I can give you the PHI, in the format you requested, without undue inconvenience.

D. The Right to Get a List of the Disclosures I Have Made. You are entitled to a list of disclosures of your PHI that I have made. The list will not include uses or disclosures to which you have already consented, i.e., those for treatment, payment, or health care operations, sent directly to you, or to your family; neither will the list include disclosures made for national security purposes, to corrections or law enforcement personnel, or disclosures made before April 15, 2003. After April 15, 2003, disclosure records will be held for six years.

I will respond to your request for an accounting of disclosures within 60 days of receiving your request. The list I give you will include disclosures made in the previous six years (the first six year period being 2003-2009) unless you indicate a shorter period. The list will include the date of the disclosure, to whom PHI was disclosed (including their address, if known), a description of the information disclosed, and the reason for the disclosure. I will provide the list to you at no cost, unless you make more than one request in the same year, in which case I will charge you a reasonable sum based on a set fee for each additional request.

E. The Right to Amend Your PHI. If you believe that there is some error in your PHI or that important information has been omitted, it is your right to request that I

correct the existing information or add the missing information. Your request and the reason for the request must be made in writing. You will receive a response within 60 days of my receipt of your request. I may deny your request, in writing, if I find that: the PHI is (a) correct and complete, (b) forbidden to be disclosed, (c) not part of our records, or (d) written by someone other than us. My denial must be in writing and must state the reasons for the denial. It must also explain your right to file a written statement objecting to the denial. If you do not file a written objection, you still have the right to ask that your request and my denial be attached to any future disclosures of your PHI. If I approve your request, I will make the change(s) to your PHI. Additionally, I will tell you that the changes have been made, and I will advise all others who need to know about the change(s) to your PHI.

F. The Right to Get This Notice by Email You have the right to get this notice by email. You have the right to request a paper copy of it, as well.

IV. HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT MY PRIVACY PRACTICES. If, in your opinion, I may have violated your privacy rights, or if you object to a decision I made about access to your PHI, you are entitled to file a complaint with the person listed in Section V below. You may also send a written complaint to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201. If you file a complaint about my privacy practices, I will take no retaliatory action against you.

V. PERSON TO CONTACT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NOTICE OR TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR PRIVACY PRACTICES. If you have any questions about this notice or any complaints about my privacy practices, or would like to know how to file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, please contact Dr. Nancy Davis, 703 978-4321.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS NOTICE

This notice went into effect on October 1, 2003

Acknowledgement of Review of Notice of Privacy Practices

I have reviewed Dr. Davis' Notice of Privacy Practices, which explains how my medical information will be used and disclosed. I understand that I am entitled to receive a copy of this document.

Signature of Patient or Adult Responsible for Minor

Date

Printed Name of Patient or Adult Responsible for Minor

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I would like to clarify the following methods for this office to communicate with me about my medical information, test results, appointment confirmations, and billing:

- Telephone at: _____
- Do leave a message on an answering machine. Do not leave a message on an answering machine. (Circle One)
- e-mail me at: _____
- Mail me at: _____(postage charges may be added for this service)

I understand it is my responsibility to keep my contact information up to date.

I give permission to disclosure **general** information about my treatment to the following people (For example: spouse, parents, children, friend)(except when disclosure is required by law.):

- _____
- Do not release any information about me to: _____