How we may use and disclose health information

Information: Described as follows are the ways we may use and disclose health information that identifies you (Health information). Except for the following purposes, we will use and disclose Health Information only with your written permission. You may revoke such permission at any time by writing to our practice.

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

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

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose Health Information for health care operation purposes. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care and to operate and manage our office. For example, we may use and 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 (for example, your health plan) for their health care operation activities.

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

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. When appropriate, we may share Health Information 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 and disclose Health Information for research. For example, a research project may involve comparing the effectiveness of different 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; and 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.

Your rights:

You have the following rights regarding Health Information we have about you:

Access to electronic records. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, HITECH Act allows people to ask for electronic copies of their PHI contained in electronic health records or to request in writing or electronically that another person receive an electronic copy of these records. The final omnibus rules expand an individual’s right to access electronic records or to direct that they be sent to another person to include not only electronic health records but also any records in one or more designated record sets. If the individual requests an electronic copy, it must be provided in the format requested or in a mutually agreed-upon format. Covered entities may charge individuals for the cost of any electronic media (such as a USB flash drive) used to provide a copy of the electronic PHI.

Right to inspect and copy: You have a right to inspect and copy Health Information that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. This includes medical and billing records, other than psychotherapy notes. To inspect and copy this Health Information, you must make your request, in writing.

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

Right to an accounting of disclosures. You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we made of Health Information for purposes other than treatment, payment and health care operations for which you provided written authorization. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must make your request, in writing.

Right to request restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the Health Information we use or disclose for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the Health Information 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.

We are not required to agree to your request. If we agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

Right to request confidential communication. 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 communication, you must make your request, in writing. 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.

Changes to this notice: We reserve the right to change this notice and make the new notice apply to Health Information 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 the first page, in the top right-hand corner.

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 and Human Services. All complaints must be made in writing.

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

Please sign the accompanying “Acknowledgement” form

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2013

Reference Policy # 201