

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

CMED, LLC
5667 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Suite 150
Atlanta, Georgia 30342

Effective Date: April 14, 2003

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.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Sybil Lawrence, the Practice Privacy Officer.

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION:

Information about you and your health is personal. We are committed to protecting your health information. We create a record of the care and services you receive at our practice, as well as records regarding payment for those services. We need these records to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by our medical practice.

This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. We also describe your rights and our obligations regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) requires us to make sure that medical information which identifies you is kept private; and that we give you this notice of our privacy practices with respect to medical information about you.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU.

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose health information. For each category of uses or disclosures, we will explain what we mean. All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

For Treatment: We may use health information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you. Our practice also may share medical information about you in order to coordinate the different things you need, such as prescriptions and lab work.

For Payment: We may use and disclose health information about you so the treatment and services you receive at our practice may be billed, and that payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or another third party. We may need to disclose some of your health information about services you received at our practice so that your health plan will pay us for the services.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose medical information about you for health care operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our practice and make sure all 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 use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk and we may call you by name in the waiting room. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment. We will share your protected health information with business associates that perform various activities (e.g., billing, transcription services) for the practice. Whenever an arrangement between our office and a business associate involves the use and disclosure of your information, we will have a contract to protect your privacy.

Individuals Involve 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. We may also tell your family or friends of your condition.

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

To Avert 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 be only to the appropriate authority or official able to help prevent the threat.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

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

1. To prevent or control disease, injury, or disability.
2. To report deaths.
3. To report reactions to medications or problems with products.
4. To notify people of recalls of products they may be using.
5. 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.
6. To notify the appropriate government authority of we believe you have been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system and for 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 subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement: We may release medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

1. In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons, or similar process.
2. To identify a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or victim.
3. In the case of criminal conduct.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors: WE may release medical information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release medical information about patients of our practice to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

National Security and Intelligence Activities: We may release medical information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Inmates: If you are an inmate of a correctional institution, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary to provide you with health care or protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

Right to Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. This includes medical and billing records, but does not include psychotherapy notes.

You must submit your request in writing to the Practice Privacy Officer. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, and handling.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed.

Right to Amend: If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the Practice Privacy Officer. 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 or that which we deem accurate and complete.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures: This right applies to disclosures for purposes other than treatment, payment, or health care operations. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Practice Privacy Officer. Your request must state a time period, which may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first list you request within a 12 month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list.

Right to Request Restrictions: You have a right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care purposes. You may also 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. *We are not required to agree to your request.* If we do agree, 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 to the Practice Privacy Officer. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply.

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. We will accommodate all 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. We will post a dated copy of the current notice in our practice.

COMPLAINTS:

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our practice, contact Sybil Lawrence, the Privacy Officer, at 404-256-0775. All complaints must be submitted in writing.

You will not be penalized in any way for filing a complaint.

OTHER USES OF MEDICAL RECORDS:

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice will be made only with your written permission, which may be revoked in writing at any time. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we have provided you.