

NORTH OAKS PEDIATRIC CLINIC, L.L.P.

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 READ IT CAREFULLY.

The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”) is a Federal program that requests that all medical records and other individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by us in any form, whether electronically, on paper, or orally are kept properly confidential. This Act gives you, the patient, the right to understand and control how your personal health information (“PHI”) is used. HIPAA provides penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information.

As required by HIPAA, we prepared this explanation of how we are to maintain the privacy of your health information and how we may disclose your personal information.

We may use and disclose your medical records only for each of the following purposes: treatment, payment, and health care operation.

- Treatment means providing, coordinating, or managing health care and related services by one or more healthcare providers. An example of this would include referring you to a specialist.
- Payment means such activities as obtaining reimbursement for services, confirming coverage, billing or collections activities, and utilization review. An example of this would include sending your insurance company a bill for your visit and/or verifying coverage prior to a surgery or appointment.
- Health Care Operations include business aspects of running our practice, such as conducting quality assessments and improving activities, auditing functions, cost management analysis, and customer service. An example of this would be new patient survey cards.
- The practice may also disclose your PHI for law enforcement and other legitimate reasons although we shall do our best to assure its continued confidentiality to the extent possible.

We may also create and distribute de-identified health information by removing all reference to individually identifiable information.

We may contact you, by phone or in writing, to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services, in addition to other communications, that may be of interest to you. You do have the right to “opt out” with respect to receiving fundraising communications from us.

The following use and disclosures of PHI will only be made pursuant to us receiving a written authorization from you:

- Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes;
- Uses and disclosure of your PHI for marketing purposes, including subsidized treatment and health care operations;
- Disclosures that constitute a sale of PHI under HIPAA; and
- Other uses and disclosures not described in this notice.

You may revoke such authorization in writing and we are required to honor and abide by that written request, except to the extent that we have already taken actions relying on your authorization.

You may have the following rights with respect to your PHI.

- The right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of PHI, including those related to disclosures of family members, other relatives, close personal friends, or any other person identified by you. We are, however, not required to honor a request restriction except in limited circumstances which we shall explain if you ask. If we do agree to the restriction, we must abide by it unless you agree in writing to remove it.
- The right to reasonable requests to receive confidential communications of Protected Health Information by alternative means or at alternative locations.
- The right to inspect and receive a copy your PHI.
- The right to amend your PHI.
- The right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your PHI.
- The right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us upon request.
- The right to be advised if your unprotected PHI is intentionally or unintentionally disclosed.

If you have paid for services “out of pocket”, in full, and you request that we do not disclose PHI related solely to those services to a health plan, we will accommodate your request, except where we are required by law to make a disclosure.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your Protected Health Information and to provide you the notice of our legal duties and our privacy practice with respect to PHI.

This notice is effective as of September 1, 2013 and it is our intention to abide by the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practices and HIPAA Regulations currently in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practice and to make the new notice provision effective for all PHI that we maintain. We will post and you may request a written copy of the revised Notice of Privacy Practice from our office.

You have recourse if you feel that your protections have been violated by our office. You have the right to file a formal, written complaint with our office and with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Feel free to contact the Practice Compliance Officer for more information, in person or in writing.

NORTH OAKS PEDIATRIC CLINIC, L.L.P.
SUMMARY OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This summary of our privacy practices contains a condensed version of our Notice of Privacy Practices. Our full length Notice follows this summary.

Date of Last Revision: June 10, 2002

Effective Date: Immediately

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. THIS INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST BY A PATIENT.

We understand that your medical information is personal to you, and we are committed to protecting the information about you. As our patient, we create medical records about your health, our care for you, and the services and/or items we provide to you as our patient. By law, we are required to make sure that your Protected Health Information is kept private.

How will we use or disclose your information? Here a few examples (for more detail please refer to the Notice of Privacy Practices that follows this summary):

- For medical treatment
- To obtain payment for our services
- In emergency situations
- For appointment and patient recall reminders
- To run our Practice more efficiently and ensure all our patients receive quality care
- For research
- To avert a serious threat to health or safety
- For organ and tissue donation
- For workers' compensation programs
- In response to certain requests arising out of lawsuits or other disputes

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with the Practice, contact our office manager. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

North Oaks Pediatric Clinic, L.L.P.

Patient Consent Form

Our Notice of Privacy Practices provides information about how we may use and disclose Protected Health Information about you. The Notice contains a Patient Rights section describing your rights under the law. You have the right to review our Notice before signing this Consent. The terms of our Notice may change. If we change our Notice, you may obtain a revised copy by contacting our office.

You have the right to request that we restrict how Protected Health Information (“PHI”) about you is used or disclosed for treatment, payment, or health care operations. We are not required to agree to this restriction, except in certain limited instances, but if we do, we shall honor that agreement.

By signing this form, you consent to our use and disclosure of PHI about you for non-subsidized treatment, payment, and health care operations, and for other purposes as permitted or required by law. You have the right to revoke this Consent, in writing, signed by you. However, such a revocation shall not affect any disclosures we have already made in reliance on your prior Consent. The Practice provides this form to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

The patient understands that:

- Protected Health Information may be disclosed or used for treatment, payment, or health care operations, or for other purposes permitted or required by law. However, we will obtain from you a separate written authorization for “subsidized” disclosures, meaning disclosures involving product or service with respect to which the Practice receives remuneration from a third party.
- The Practice has a Notice of Privacy Practices and that the patient has the opportunity to review this Notice.
- The Practice reserves the right to change the Notice of Privacy Policies.
- The patient has the right to restrict the uses of their information but the Practice does not have to agree to those restrictions, except in certain limited instances.
- The patient may revoke this Consent in writing at any time and all future disclosures will then cease.
- The Practice may condition treatment upon the execution of this Consent.