

# Pacific Women's Healthcare Associates

500 Superior Ave. Suite 310, Newport Beach, Ca 92663 P: 949-644-2722 F: 949-760-5438

4870 Barranca Pwy, Suite 220, Irvine, CS 92604 P: 949-559-4870 F: 949-559-5328

## Notice of Privacy Practices Acknowledgment

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. As the custodians of the information in your medical record, we are committed to protecting the privacy of your medical information as required by law professional accreditation standards and our internal policies and procedures.

Attached is your personal copy of your Notice of Privacy Practice. This notice explains your rights, out legal duties and our privacy practices. It also describes how much medial information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

For your convenience the following is a summary of the information discussed in the notice:

- Our Pledge
- Your Personal Information
- Our Privacy Practices
- Your Written Permission
- Other Restrictions
- Your Rights
- Changes
- Questions or Complaints

We may use your information for:

- Treatment
- Heath Information Exchange
- Payment
- Health Care Operations
- Notifications
- Marketing Research
- Special Circumstances and The Law

Please understand that this summary is not our Notice of Privacy Policies, nor is it a substitute for the notice. The actual notice should have been given to you, as required by law, with this cover letter. If it was not, please contact our office manager at the address or phone number above to receive your copy.

We ask that you sign and return this cover letter to us for our records. Your signature only acknowledges that we have provided you a personal, paper copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices as required by law. The law also requires us to document the fact that we have distributed the notice by collecting and retaining this signed acknowledgement. If, after reviewing the notice, you decide that you do not want to retain you copy, please return it to our receptionist and we will recycle it.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy and the office Policies and Procedures and do with to receive Treatment.

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date

Privacy Officer:

Phone: 949-644-2722

Effective Date: July 1, 2014

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY.

*We understand the importance of privacy and are committed to maintaining the confidentiality of your medical information, we make a record of the medical care we provide and may receive such records from others. we use these records to prove or enable other health care providers to provide quality medical care, to obtain payment for services provided to you as allowed by your health plan and to enable us to meet our professional and legal obligation to operate this medical practice properly. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protect health information. This notice also describes your rights and our legal obligations with respect to your medical information. If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact our Privacy Officer listed above.*

## A. How This Medical Practice May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

This medical practice collects health information about you and stores it in a chart and on a computer. This is your medical record. The medical record is the property of this medical practice, but the information in the medical record belongs to you. The law permits us to use or disclose you health information for the following purposes:

1. **Treatment:** We use medical information about you to provide your medical care. We disclose medical information to our employees and others who are involved in providing the care you need. For example, we may share you're medical information with other physicians or to other health care providers who will provide services which we do not provide. Or, we may share this information with a pharmacist who needs to dispense a prescription to you, or a laboratory that performs a test. We may also disclose medical information to member of your family or others who hacn help you when you are sick or injured.
2. **Health information exchange:** This practice is participating in the HOAG Health Information Exchange (HIE), an electronic system through which it and other participating healthcare providers can share patient information according to nationally recognized standards and in compliance with federal and state law that protects your privacy. Through the HEI, your Participating providers will be able to access information about you that is necessary for you treatment, unless you choose to have your information withheld from the HIE by personally opting out of participation. If you choose to opt you of the HIE ( that is, if you feel that your medical information should not be shared through the HIE), We will continue to use your medical information in accordance with this Notice of Privacy Practices and the law, but will not make it available to others through the HIE. To opt out of the HIE, please contact the HOAG Director of Health Information Exchange in writing at One Hoag Drive, Newport Beach, Ca92663, or by telephone a 949-764-8722.
3. **Payment:** We use and disclose medical information about you to obtain payment for the services we provide. For example, we give your health plan the information it requires before it will pay us. We may also disclose

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information to other health care providers to assist them in obtaining payment for services they have provided to you.

4. **Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose medical information about you to operate this medical practice. For example, we may use and disclose this information to review and improve the quality of care we provide, or the competence and qualifications of our professional staff. Or we may use and disclose this information to get your health plan to authorize services or referrals. We may also use and disclose this information as necessary for medical review, legal services and audits, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs and business planning and management. We may also share your medical information with our "business associates," such as our billing service, that perform administrative services for us. We have a written contract with each of these business associates that contains terms requiring them to protect the confidentiality and security of your medical information. Although, federal law does not protect health information which is disclosed to someone other than another healthcare provider, health plan, healthcare clearinghouse, or one of their business associates, California law prohibits all recipients of healthcare information from further disclosing it except as specifically required or permitted by law. We may also share information with health care providers, healthcare clearinghouse or health plans that have a relationship with you, their patient-safety activities, their population-based efforts to improve health or reduce health care cost, protocol development, case care professionals, their training programs, their accreditation, certification or licensing activities, their activities related to contracts of health insurance or health benefits, or their health care fraud and abuse detection and compliance efforts.
5. **Appointment Reminders:** We may use and disclose medical information to contact and remind you about appointments. If you are not home, we may leave this information on your answering machine or in a message left with the person answering the phone.
6. **Sign-in Sheet:** We may use and disclose medical information about you by having you sign in when you arrive at your office. We may also call our your name when we are ready to see you.
7. **Notification and Communication with Family:** We may disclose your health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care about your location, your general condition or, unless you instructed us otherwise, in the event of your death. In the event of a disaster, we may disclose information to a relief organization so that they may coordinate these notification efforts. We may also disclose information to someone who is involved with your care or helps pay for your care. If you are able and available to agree or object, we will give you the opportunity to object prior to making these disclosures, although we may disclose this information in a disaster even over your objection if we believe it is necessary to respond to the emergency circumstances. If you are unable or unavailable to agree or object, our health professionals will use their best judgment in communication with your family and others.
8. **Marketing.** Provided we do not receive any payment for making these communications, we may contact you to encourage you to purchase or use products or services related to your treatment, case management or care coordination, or direct or recommend other treatments, therapies, health care providers or settings of care that may be of interest for you. We may similarly describe products or services provided by this practice and tell you which health plans we participate in. We may receive financial compensation to talk with you face-to-face, to provide you with small promotional gifts, or to cover our cost of reminding you to take and refill your medication or otherwise communicate about a drug or biologic that is currently prescribed for you, but only if you either: (1) have a chronic and seriously debilitating or life-threatening condition and the communication is made to educate or advise you about treatment options and otherwise maintain adherence to a prescribed course of treatment, or (2) you are a current health plan enrollee and the communications while you have a chronic and seriously debilitating or life threatening condition, we will provide notice of the following in at least 14-point type: (1) the fact and source of the remuneration; and (2) your right to opt-out of the future

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remunerated communications by calling the communicator's toll-free number. We will not otherwise use or disclose your medical information for marketing purposes or accept any payment for other marketing communications without prior written authorization. The authorization will disclose whether we receive any financial compensation for any marketing activity you authorize, and we will stop any future marketing activity to the extent you revoke that authorization.

9. **Sale of Health Information.** We will not sell your health information without your prior written authorization. The authorization will disclose that we will receive compensation for your health information if you authorize us to sell it, and we will stop any future sales of your information to the extent that you revoke that authorization.
10. **Required by Law.** As required by law, we will use and disclose you health information, but we will limit our use or disclosure to the relevant requirement of the law. When the law requires us to report abuse, neglect or somestic violence or respond to judicial or administrative proceedings, or to law enforcement officials, we will further comply with the requirement set forth below concerning those activities.
11. **Public Health.** We may, and are sometimes required by law to disclose your health information to public helath authorities for purposes related to: preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting children, elder or dependent adult abuse or neglect; reporting domestic violence; reporting to the Food and Drug Administration problems with products and reactions to medications; and reporting disease or infection exposure. When we report suspected elder or dependent adult abuse or domestic violence, we will inform you or your personal representative promptly unless in our best professional judgment, we believe the notification would place you at risk of serious harm or would require informing a personal representative we believe is responsible for the abuse or harm.
12. **Health Oversight Activities.** We may, and are sometimes required by law to disclose your health information to health oversight agencies during the course of audits, investigations, inspections, licensure and other proceedings, subject to the limitations imposed by Federal and California law.
13. **Judicial and Administrative Proceedings.** We may, and are sometimes required by law, to disclose your health information in the course of any administrative or judicial proceeding to the extent expressly authorized by court or administrative order. We may also disclose information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process if reasonable efforts have been made to notify you of the request and you have not objected, or if your objections have been resolved by a court or administrative order.
14. **Law Enforcement.** We may, and are sometimes required by law, to disclose your health information to a law enforcement official for purposes such as identifying of locating a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person, complying with a court order, warrant, grand jury subpoena and other law enforcement purposes.
15. **Coroners.** We may, and are often required by law, to disclose your health information to coroners in connection with their investigations of deaths.
16. **Organ or Tissue Donation.** We may disclose your health information to organizations involved in procuring, banking or transplanting organs and tissues.
17. **Public Safety.** We may, and are sometimes required by law, to disclose your health information to appropriate persons in order to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a particular person or the general public.
18. **Proof of Immunization.** We will disclose proof of immunization to a school where the law requires the school to have such information prior to admitting a student if you have agree to the disclosure on behalf of yourself or your dependent.
19. **Specialized Government Functions.** We may disclose your health information for military or national security purposes or to correctional institutions or law enforcement officers that have you in their lawful custody.

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20. **Worker's Compensation.** We may disclose your health information as necessary to comply with worker's compensation laws. For example, to the extent your care is covered by workers' compensation, we will make periodic reports to your employer about your condition. We are also required by law to report cases of occupational injury or occupational illness to the employer or workers' compensation insurer.
21. **Change of Ownership.** In the event that this medical practice is sold or merged with another organization, your health information/record will become the property of the new owner, although you will maintain the right to request that copies of your health information be transferred to another physician or medical group.
22. **Breach Notification.** In the case of a breach of unsecured protected health information, we will notify you as required by law. In some circumstances our business associate may provide the notification. We may also provide notification by other methods as appropriate.
23. **Psychotherapy Notes.** We will not use or disclose your Psychotherapy notes without your prior written authorization except for the following: (1) your treatment, (2) for training our staff, students and other trainees, (3) to defend ourselves if you sue us or bring some other legal proceeding, (4) if the law requires us to disclose the information to you or the Secretary of HHS or for some other reason, (5) in response to health Oversight activities concerning your psychotherapist, (6) to avert a serious threat to health or safety, or (7) to the coroner or medical examiner after you die. To the extent you revoke an authorization to use or disclose your psychotherapy notes, we will stop using or disclosing these notes.
24. **Research.** We may disclose your health information to researchers conducting research with respect to which your written authorization is not required as approved by an Institutional Review Board or privacy board, in compliance with governing law.
25. **Fundraising.** We may use or disclose your demographic information, the dates that you received treatment, the department of service, your treating physician, outcome information and health insurance status in order to contact you for our fundraising activities. If you do not want to receive these materials, notify the Privacy Officer listed at the top of this Notice of Privacy Practices and we will stop any further fundraising communications. Similarly, you should notify the Privacy Office if you decide you want to start receiving these solicitations again.

## **B. When This Medical Practice May Not Use or Disclose Your Health Information.**

Except as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices, this medical practice will, consistent with its legal obligations, not use or disclose health information which identifies you without your written authorization. If you do authorize this medical practice to use or disclose your health information for another purpose, you may revoke your authorization in writing at any time.

## **C. Your Health Information Rights.**

1. **Right to Request special privacy Protections.** You have a right to request restriction on certain uses and disclosure of your health information by written request specifying what information you want to limit, and what limitations on our use or disclosure of that information you wish to have imposed. If you tell us not to disclose information to your commercial health plan concerning health care item or service for which you paid for in full out-of-pocket, we will abide by your request, unless we must disclose the information for treatment for legal reasons. We reserve the right to accept or reject any other request, and will notify you of our decision.
2. **Right to request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that you receive your health information in a specific way or at a specific location. For example, you may ask that we send information to a particular e-mail account or to your work address. We will comply with all reasonable requests submitted in writing which specify how or where you wish to receive these communications.
3. **Right to inspect and copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy your health information, with limited exceptions. To access your medical information, you must submit a written request detailing what information you want access to, whether you want to inspect it or get a copy of it, and if you want a copy, your preferred form and format. We will provide copies in your requested form and format if it is readily producible, or we will provide you with an alternative format you find acceptable, or if we can't agree and we maintain the record in an electronic format, your choice of a readable electronic or hard copy format. We will also send a

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copy to another person you designate in writing. We will charge a reasonable fee which covers our cost for labor, supplies, postage, and if requested and agreed to in advance, the cost of preparing an explanation or summary, are allowed by Federal and California law. We may deny your request under limited circumstances. If we deny your request to access your child's records or the records of incapacitated adult you are representing because we believe allowing access would be reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to the patient, you will have a right to appeal or decision. If we deny your request to access your psychotherapy note, you will have the right to have them transferred to another mental health professional.

4. **Right to Amend or Supplement.** You have the right to request that we amend your health information that you believe is incorrect or incomplete. You must make a request to amend in writing, and include the reasons you believe the information is inaccurate or incomplete. We are not required to change your health information, and will provide you with information about this medical practice's denial and how you can disagree with the denial. We may deny your request if we do not have the information, if we did not create the information (unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment), if you would not be permitted to inspect or copy the information at issue, or if the information is accurate and complete as is. If we deny your request, you may submit a written statement of your disagreement with that decision, and we may, in turn, prepare a written rebuttal. You also have the right to request that we add to your record a statement of up to 250 words concerning anything in the record you believe to be incomplete or incorrect. All information related to any request to amend or supplement will be maintained and disclosed in conjunction with any subsequent disclosure of the disputed information.
5. **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information made by this medical Practice, except that this medical Practice does not have to account for the disclosures provided to you or pursuant to your written authorization, or as described in paragraphs 1 (treatment), 2 (payment), 3 (health care operations), 6 (notification and communication with family) and 18 (specialized government functions) of Section A of this Notice of Privacy practices or disclosure for purposes of research or public health which exclude direct patient identifier, or which are incident to a use or disclosure otherwise permitted or authorized by law, or the disclosure to a health oversight agency. Or law enforcement official to the extent this medical practice has received notice from that agent or official that providing this accounting would be reasonably likely to impede their activities.
6. You have a right to notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information, including a right to a paper copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices, even if you have previously requested its receipt by email. If you would like to have a more detailed explanation of these rights or if you would like to exercise one or more of these rights, contact our Privacy Officer listed at the top of this Notice of Privacy Practices.

## D. Changes to this Notice of Privacy Practices

We reserve the right to amend our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time in the future. Until such amendment is made, we are required by law to comply with this Notice. After an amendment is made, the revised Notice of Privacy Protections will apply to all protected health information that we maintain, regardless of when it was created or received. We will keep a copy of the current notice posted in our reception area, and a copy will be available at each appointment.

## E. Complaints

Complaints about this Notice of Privacy Practices or how this medical practice handles your health information should be directed to our Privacy Officer listed at the top of this Notice of Privacy Practices.

If you are not satisfied with the manner in which this office handles a complaint, you may submit a formal complaint to:

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Office for Civil Rights

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

90 7th Street, Suite 4-100

San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 437-8310; (415) 437-8311 (TDD)

(415) 437-8329 FAX

OCRMail@hhs.gov

The complaint form may be found at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hippa/complaints/hipcomplaint.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hippa/complaints/hipcomplaint.pdf)

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