

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

This notice takes effect on April 14, 2003 and remains in effect until we replace it.

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION

The privacy of your medical information is important to us. We understand that your medical information is personal and we are committed to protecting it. We create a record of the care and services you receive at our organization. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice will tell you about the ways we may use and share medical information about you. We also describe yours rights and certain duties we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

OUR LEGAL DUTY

Federal and State Laws Require us to:

- Keep your medical information private.
- Give you this notice describing our legal duties, privacy practices, and your rights regarding your medical information.
- Follow the terms of the notice that is now in effect.

We Have the Right to:

- Change our privacy practices and the new terms of this notice at any time, provided that the changes are permitted by law.
- Make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all medical information that we keep, including information previously created or received before the changes.

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Notice of Change to Privacy Practices:

- Before we make an important change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and make the new notice available upon request.

USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION

The following section describes different ways that we use and disclose medical information. Not every use or disclosure will be listed. However, we have listed all of the different ways we are permitted to use and disclose medical information. We will not use or disclose your

medical information for any purpose not listed below without your specific written authorization. Any specific written authorization you provide may be revoked at any time by writing to us.

FOR TREATMENT: We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other people who are taking care of you. We may also share medical information about you with your other health care providers to assist them in treating you.

FOR PAYMENT: We may use and disclose your medical information for payment purposes.

FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS: We may use and disclose your medical information for our health care operations. This might include measuring and improving quality, evaluating the performance of employees, conducting training programs, and getting the accreditations, certificates, licenses, and credentials we need to serve you.

ADDITIONAL USES AND DISCLOSURES: In addition to using and disclosing your medical information for treatment, payment, and health care operations, we may use and disclose medical information for the following purposes:

Notification: Medical information to notify or help notify a family member, your personal representative, or another person responsible for your care. We will share information about your location and general condition. If you are present, we will get your permission if possible before we share, or give you the opportunity to refuse permission. In case of emergency, and if you are unable to give or refuse permission, we will only share the health information that is directly necessary for your health care, according to our professional judgment. We will also use our professional

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judgment to make decisions in your best interest about allowing someone to pick up medicine, medical supplies, x-rays, or medical information for you. They must bring with them a letter signed and dated by you stating they have your permission and some form of identification.

Appointments: We may contact you with appointment reminders or changes or information regarding treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits or services of interest to you. If you wish to be contacted in a special manner, please notify us at the time of your appointment.

Disaster Relief: Medical information with a public or private organization or person who can legally assist in disaster relief efforts.

Research in Limited Circumstances: Medical information for research purposes in limited circumstances where the research has been approved by a review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of medical information.

Funeral Director, Coroner, Medical Examiner: To help them carry out their duties, we may share the medical information of a person who has died with a coroner, medical examiner, funeral director, or organ procurement organization.

Specialized Government Functions: Subject to certain requirements, we may disclose or use health information for military personnel and veterans, for national security and intelligence activities, for protective services for the President and others, for medical suitability determinations for the Department of State, for correctional institutions and other law enforcement custodial situations, and for government programs providing public benefits.

Court Orders and Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: We may disclose medical information in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process under certain circumstances. Under limited circumstances, such a court order, warrant, or grand jury subpoena, we may share your medical information with law enforcement officials. We may share limited information with a law enforcement official concerning the medical information of a suspect, fugitive, material witness, crime victim, or missing person. We may share the medical information of an inmate or other person in lawful custody with a law enforcement official or correctional institution under certain circumstances.

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Public Health Activities: As required by law, we may disclose your medical information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including child abuse or neglect. We may also disclose your medical information to persons subject to jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of reporting adverse events associated with product defects or problems, to enable product recalls, repairs or replacements, to track products, or to conduct activities required by the Food and Drug Administration. We may also, when we are authorized by law to do so, notify a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence: We may disclose medical information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may share your medical information if it is necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others. We may share medical information when necessary to help law enforcement officials capture a person who has admitted to being part of a crime or has escaped from legal custody.

Workers' Compensation: We may disclose health information when authorized and necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose medical information to an agency providing health oversight activities authorized by law including audits, civil, administrative, or criminal investigations or proceedings, inspections, licensure or disciplinary actions, or other

authorized activities.

Law Enforcement: Under certain circumstances, we may disclose health information to law enforcement officials. These circumstances include reporting required by certain laws (such as reporting certain types of wounds), pursuant to certain subpoenas or court orders, reporting limited information concerning identification and location at the request of a law enforcement official, reporting death, crimes on our premises, and crimes in emergencies.

Other: We may disclose health information for other uses and disclosures only with your written authority to do so. You may revoke this authority in writing at any time except when we have already taken action.

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YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

You Have a Right to:

- Adequate notice of the uses and disclosures of your health information that may be made by us, notice of your rights as a patient, and notice of our legal duties regarding your health information. (Exception: An inmate does not have a right to notice).
- Obtain copies of your medical information. You may get the form to request copies of your records at the front desk or by using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. Your letter must be signed, dated, and include an expiration date not to exceed one year. If you request copies, we will charge you \$.50 for each page up to 50 pages, then \$.25 per page after that. We also charge a \$10.00 search and handling fee and postage costs if you want the copies mailed to you. Records mailed or faxed to another treating physician or workers' compensation carrier will be sent free of charge. We will charge you \$5.00 per film and a \$10.00 handling fee for all copies of x-ray films. We will charge you \$25.00 for films of each MRI study and a \$10.00 handling fee. All fees must be paid before the records are released. Virginia Code allows us 15 days from receipt of your request to fulfill the request.
- Receive a list of all times we or our business associates shared your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations and other specified exceptions.
- Request that we place additional restriction on our use or disclosure of your medical information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions; but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in the case of an emergency).
- Request that we communicate with you about your medical information by different means or to different locations. This request must be in writing to the contact person listed at the end of this notice.
- Request that we change your medical information. We may deny your request if we did not create the information you want changed or for certain reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you a written explanation. You may respond with a statement of disagreement that will be added to the information you want changed. If we accept your request to change the information, we will make reasonable efforts to tell others, including people you name, of the change and to include the changes in any future sharing of that information.

- If you have received this notice electronically and wish to receive a paper copy, you have the right to obtain a paper copy by making a request in writing to the Privacy Officers at this office.

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QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you have any questions about this notice or if you think that we may have violated your privacy rights, please contact us. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint.

OSC CONTACT PERSONS:

Alan Leybold, Practice Administrator
250 Nat Turner Blvd.
Newport News, VA 23606
(757)596-1900
aleybold@osc-ortho.com