

SIGNAL HILL CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICIES

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 Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. It also describes your rights and certain obligations that we have regarding the use and disclosure of your medical information.

Signal Hill Chiropractic Center, (the "Practice"), in accordance with the federal Privacy Rule, 45 CFR parts 160 and 164 (the "Privacy Rule") and applicable state law, is committed to maintaining the privacy of your protected health information ("PHI"). PHI includes information about your health condition and the care and treatment you receive from the Practice and is often referred to as your health care or medical record. This Notice explains how your PHI may be used and disclosed to third parties. This Notice also details your rights regarding your PHI.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU: The following categories describe different ways that we may use and disclose your medical information. These are examples and, therefore, not every permitted use and disclosure is listed.

For Treatment. To provide you with the health care you require, the Practice may use and disclose your PHI to those health care professionals, whether on the Practice's staff or not, so that it may provide, coordinate, plan and manage your health care. For example, a chiropractor treating you for lower back pain may need to know and obtain the results of your latest physician examination or last treatment plan.

For Payment. To get paid for services provided to you, the Practice may provide your PHI, directly or through a billing service, to a third party who may be responsible for your care, including insurance companies and health plans. If necessary, the Practice may use your PHI in other collection efforts with respect to all persons who may be liable to the Practice for bills related to your care. For example, the Practice may need to provide the Medicare program with information about health care services that you received from the Practice so that the Practice can be reimbursed. The Practice may also need to tell your insurance plan about treatment you are going to receive so that it can determine whether or not it will cover the treatment expense.

For Health care Operations. To operate in accordance with applicable law and insurance requirements, and to provide quality and efficient care, the Practice may need to compile, use and disclose your PHI. For example, the Practice may use your PHI to evaluate the performance of the Practice's personnel in providing care to you.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF HOW THE PRACTICE MAY USE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION.

Advice of Appointment and Services. The practice may, from time to time, contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. The following appointment reminders may be used by the Practice: a) a postcard mailed to you at the address provided by you; and b) telephoning your home and leaving a message on your answering machine or with the individual answering the phone.

Directory/Sign-In Log. The Practice maintains a sign-in log at its reception desk for individuals seeking care and treatment in the office. The sign-in log is located in a position where staff can readily see who is seeking care in the office, as well as the individual's location within the Practice's office suite. This information may be seen by, and is accessible to, others who are seeking care or services in the Practice's offices.

Family/Friends. The Practice may disclose to a family member, other relative, a close personal friend, or any other person identified by you, your PHI directly relevant to such person's involvement with your care or the payment for your care. The Practice may also use or disclose your PHI to notify or assist in the notification (including identifying or locating) a family member, a personal representative, or another person responsible for your care, of your location, general condition or death. However, in both cases, the following conditions will apply:

- If you are present at or prior to the use or disclosure of your PHI, the Practice may use or disclose your PHI if you agree, or if the Practice can reasonably infer from the circumstances, based on the exercise of its professional judgment, that you do not object to the use or disclosure.
- If you are not present, the Practice will, in the exercise of professional judgment, determine whether the use or disclosure is in your best interests and, if so, disclose only the PHI that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your care.

OTHER USE & DISCLOSURES WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED BY LAW. The Practice may also use and disclose your PHI, without your consent or authorization in the following instances:

De-Identified Information. The Practice may use and disclose health information that may be related to your care but does not identify you and cannot be used to identify you.

Business Associated. The Practice may use and disclose PHI to one or more of its business associates if the Practice obtains satisfactory written assurance, in accordance with applicable law, that the business associate will appropriately safeguard your PHI. A business associate is an entity that assists the Practice in undertaking some essential function, such as a billing company that assists the office in submitting claims for payment to insurance companies.

Personal Representative. The Practice may use and disclose PHI: a person who, under applicable law, has the authority to represent you in making decisions related to your health care.

Emergency Situations. The Practice may use and disclose PHI: for the purpose of obtaining or rendering emergency treatment to you provided that the Practice attempts to obtain your Consent as soon as possible; or to a public or private entity authorized by law or by its charter to assist in disaster relief efforts, for the purpose of coordinating your care with such entities in an emergency situation.

Public Health Activities. The Practice may use and disclose PHI when authorized by law to provide information to a public health authority to prevent or control disease.

Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence. The Practice may use and disclose PHI when authorized by law to provide information if it believes that the disclosure is necessary to prevent serious harm.

Health Oversight Activities. The Practice may use and disclose PHI when required by law to provide information in criminal investigations, disciplinary actions, or other activities relating to the community's health care system.

Judicial and Administrative Proceeding. The Practice may use and disclose PHI in response to a court order or a lawfully issued subpoena.

Law Enforcement Purposes. The Practice may use and disclose PHI, when authorized, to a law enforcement official. For example, your PHI may be the subject of a grand jury subpoena, or if the Practice believes that your death was the result of criminal conduct.

Coroner or Medical Examiner. The Practice may use and disclose PHI to a coroner or medical examiner for the purpose of identifying you or determining your cause of death.

Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation. The Practice may use and disclose PHI if you are an organ donor, to the entity to whom you have agreed to donate your organs.

Research. The Practice may use and disclose PHI subject to applicable legal requirements if the Practice is involved in research activities.

Avert a Threat to Health or Safety. The Practice may use and disclose PHI if it believes that such disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public and the disclosure is to an individual who is reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat.

Specialized Government Functions. The Practice may use and disclose PHI when authorized by law with regard to certain military and veteran activity.

Workers' Compensation. The Practice may use and disclose PHI if you are involved in a Workers' Compensation claim, to an individual or entity that is part of the Workers' Compensation system.

National Security and Intelligence Activities. The Practice may use and disclose PHI to authorized governmental officials with necessary intelligence information for national security activities.

Military and Veterans. The Practice may use and disclose PHI if you are a member of the armed forces, as required by the military command authorities.

AUTHORIZATION. Uses and/or disclosures, other than those described above, will be made only with your written Authorization.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU: You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

Right to Inspect and Copy. You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your medical information. This includes your medical and billing records. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.

Right to Amend. If you feel that the medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request and amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for the health care facility.

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, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
- Is not part of the medical information kept by or for the health care facility.
- Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or,
- Is accurate and complete.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request and "accounting of disclosures". This is a list of the disclosures we made of your medical information. This list will not include disclosures that we made for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. We are also not required to include in this list the disclosures we made by acting upon your written authorizations.

Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six (6) years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first accounting you request within twelve (12) month period will be free. For additional accountings, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You also have the right to request a restriction or limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend.

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

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, for example, disclosures to your spouse.

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. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work.

We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

Right to a Paper Copy of this Notice. You have a 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 reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice in the office. The Notice will contain on the first page, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information about the matters covered by this Notice you may contact Signal Hill Chiropractic Center at 513-248-1040

COMPLAINTS: If you believe your **privacy rights** have been violated, you may file a complaint with Signal Hill Chiropractic Center or with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with Signal Hill Chiropractic Center, you must submit your complaint in writing as follows:

If you are a patient with Signal Hill Chiropractic Center, send your written complaint to the attention of Signal Hill Chiropractic Center, 5870-B Cook Road, Milford, Ohio 45150

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.