

NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICIES FOR DR KATIE PENRY

(Further referred to as “We” or “Us”)

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

PATIENT COPY-Please keep for your records

Introduction:

We are committed to treatment and using your Protected Health Information about you responsibly. This Notice of Health Information Practices describes the personal information we collect, and how and when we use or disclose that information. It also describes your rights as they relate to your PHI. This Notice is effective **April 14, 2003** and applies to all PHI as defined by federal regulations.

Understanding Your Health Record/Information:

Each time you visit Us a record of your visit is made. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. This information, often referred to as your health or medical record services as a:

- Basis for planning your care and treatment,
- Means of communication among the many health professionals who contribute to your care,
- Legal documents describing the care you received,
- Means by which you or a third-party can verify that services billed were actually provided,
- A tool in educating health professionals,
- A source of information for the public health officials charged with improving the health of this state and the nation,
- A source of data for our planning and marketing and,
- A toll with which we can assess and continually work to improve the care we render and the outcomes we achieve.

Understanding what is in your health record and how your health information is used helps you to: ensure its accuracy; better understand who, what, when, where, and why others may access your health information; and make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others.

Your Health Information Rights:

Although your health record is the physical property of Us, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Obtain a paper copy of this notice of information practices upon request,
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information as provided in 45 CFR 164.528,
- Request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations,
- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your health information as provided by 45 CFR 164.522, and
- Revoke your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken.

Our Responsibilities

We are required to:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information,
- Provide you with this notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information we collect and maintain about you,
- Abide by the terms of this notice,
- Notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction, and
- Accommodate reasonable requests you may have to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

We reserve the right to change our practices and to make the new provisions effective for all PHI we maintain. Should our information practices change, we will notify you at your next appointment and/or mail a revised notice to the address you supplied us. We will not use or disclose your PHI without your authorization, except as described in this notice. We will also discontinue your authorization, except as described in this notice. We will also discontinue to use or disclose your health information after we have received a written revocation of the authorization according to the procedures included in this authorization.

For More Information or to Report a Problem:

If you have questions, concerns or need additional information, you may contact Dr. Penry at 251-929-4644. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can file a complaint with the practice's Privacy Officer, or with the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint with either the Privacy Officer or the OCR.