



3180 N. Butler Ave. Bldg. 200
Farmington, NM 87401

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in the Notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect 4/1/2003, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make new Notices available upon request.

You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For information about our privacy practices or for additional copies of the Notice, please contact us at the end of this Notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use or disclose your health information to a physician, dentist, or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

Payment: We may use or disclose your health information to obtain payments for services we provide to you.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conduction training programs, permitted by your authorization while it was in effect.

Your Authorization: In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect.

To Your Family, Friends and Persons involved in Care: We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Patient Rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare. We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, by your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Public Health Activities: We may disclose vital statistics, diseases, information related to recalls of dangerous products, and similar information to public health.

Health Oversight: We may be required to disclose information to assist in investigations and audits, eligibility for government programs and similar activities.

Court Orders and Subpoenas: We may disclose information in response to an appropriate court order or subpoena.

Law Enforcement: Subject to certain restrictions, we may disclose information required by law enforcement officials.

Serious Threat to Health or Safety: We may use and disclose information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety to the public or another person.

Workers Compensation: We may release information to appropriate workers compensation or similar providing benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your health 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 disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorize federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement officials having lawful custody of protected health information of inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards or letters). We may also contact you to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health-related information that may be of interest to you.

Patient Rights:

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable fee or expenses such as copies and staff time.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost based fee for responding to these additional requests.

Restrictions: you have the right to request that we place additional restrictions. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing and it must explain why the information should be amended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Questions and Complaints

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decisions we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services.

We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Office phone number: (505)327-4884

Office Fax number: (505)327-9089



3180 N. Butler Ave., Bldg. 200
Farmington, NM 87401

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices

The Office of Derek Graff, D.M.D., LTD.

* You May Refuse to Sign This Acknowledgment*

I have received a copy of this office's Notice of Privacy Practices.

Patients Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

-----For Office Use Only-----

We attempted to obtain written acknowledgement of receipt of our Notice of Privacy Practices, but acknowledgement could not be obtained because:

- Individual refused to sign
- Communications barriers prohibited obtaining the acknowledgement
- An emergency situation prevented us from obtaining acknowledgement
- Other (Please Specify):
