

information about you and disclose information to people who do not work in our office in order to coordinate your care, such as phoning prescriptions to your pharmacy, scheduling lab work and ordering X-rays. Family members and other health-care providers may be part of your medical care outside this office and may require information about you that we have.

### For Payment

To obtain reimbursement from your insurer, we may be required to disclose your information. This may be necessary for determining your eligibility for coverage and adjudication of claims, billing, claims management and collections activities. We may also be required to disclose your information to your insurer for review of the medical necessity, coverage, appropriateness or justification of our charges.

For example, we may need to give your health plan information about a service you received here so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the service. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval, or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment. You have the right to restrict disclosures of your PHI to a health plan if you have paid out-of-pocket in full for the treatment.

### For Health Care Operations

We may use and disclose health information about you in order to run the office and make sure that you and our other patients receive quality care. Healthcare operations may include:

- Quality assessment and improvement activities
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals or evaluating practitioner and provider performance
- Conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities
- Arranging for or conducting medical review, legal services or auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs
- Managing and operating our practice, including activities such as customer service and complaint resolution

### Appointment Reminders

We may contact you (via voicemail messages, postcards or letters) as a reminder that you have an appointment for your treatment or medical care at our office.

### Treatment Alternatives

We may tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you. We also may tell you about health-related products or services that may be of interest to you.

### Marketing Health-Related Services

We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written, prior authorization. We will not sell your PHI to another organization for marketing or any other purposes.

### Special Situations

We may use or disclose health information about you without your permission for the following purposes, subject to all applicable legal requirements and limitations:

- 1. To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose health information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.
- 2. Required By Law.** We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.
- 3. Research.** We may use and disclose health information about you for research projects that are subject to a special approval process. We will ask you for your permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are, or will be involved in your care at the office.
- 4. Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate such donation and transplantation.
- 5. Military, Veterans, National Security and Intelligence.** If you are or were a member of the armed forces, or part of the national security or intelligence communities, we may be required by military command or other government authorities to release health information about you. We may also release information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- 6. Workers' Compensation.** We may release health information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- 7. Public Health Risks.** We may disclose health information about you for public health reason in order to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; or report births, deaths, suspected abuse or neglect, non-accidental physical injuries, reactions to medications or problems with products.
- 8. Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for audits, investigations, inspections, or licensing purposes. These disclosures may be necessary for certain state and federal agencies to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.
- 9. Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. Subject to all applicable legal requirements, we may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena.
- 10. Law Enforcement.** We may release health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process, subject to all applicable legal requirements.
- 11. Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or to determine the cause of death.

**12. Information Not Personally Identifiable.** We may use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify you or reveal who you are.

**13. Family and Friends.** We may disclose health information about you to your family members or friends if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family or friends if we can infer from the circumstances, based on our professional judgment, that you would not object.

**14. Deceased Person's PHI** may be disclosed by our practice to family or others involved in the person's care or payment for care, unless our practice knows the deceased preferred that certain people not receive the PHI. Disclosures are limited to the PHI directly relevant to the person's involvement.

For example, we may assume you agree to our disclosure of your personal health information to your spouse when you bring your spouse with you into the exam room during treatment or while treatment is discussed.

In situations where you are not capable of giving consent (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or medical emergency), we may, using our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your family member or friend is in your best interest. In that situation, we will disclose only health information relevant to the person's involvement in your care.

### Other Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

We will not use or disclose your health information for any purpose other than those identified in the previous sections without your specific, written *Authorization*. We must obtain your *Authorization* separate from any *Consent* we may have obtained from you.

If you give us *Authorization* to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that *Authorization, in writing*, at any time.

If you revoke your *Authorization*, we will no longer use or disclose information about you for the reasons covered by your written *Authorization*. However, we cannot take back any uses or disclosures already made with your permission.

You have the right to be notified following a breach of your PHI by our practice.

### Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact:

JAMES CATT D.M.D.

3546 Lone Pine Rd

Medford, OR 97504

541-772-8846

**You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**