



## Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used, disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

We are committed to protecting the confidentiality of your medical information, and are required by law to do so. This notice describes how we may use your medical information within the Hospital/Physician Office and how we may disclose it to others outside of the Hospital/Physicians Office. This notice also describes the rights you have concerning your own medical information. Please review it carefully and let us know if you have any questions.

### How will we use and disclose your medical information?

Treatment: We may use your medical information to provide you with medical services and supplies. We may also disclose your medical information to others who need that information to treat you, such as physicians, physicians assistants, nurses, medical, nursing and MA students, technicians, therapists, emergency service, medical transportation providers, medical equipment providers and others involved in your care.

We may also use and disclose your medical information to contact you to remind you of an upcoming appointment, to inform you about possible treatment options or alternatives, or to tell you about health-related services available to you.

Family members and others involved in your care: We may disclose your medical information to a family member or friend who is involved in your medical care, or to someone who helps pay for your care. We also may disclose your medical information to disaster relief organizations to help locate a family member or friend in a disaster.

Payment: We will use and disclose your medical information to get paid for the medical services and supplies we provide to you. For example, your health plan or health insurance company may ask to see parts of your medical record before they will pay us for your treatment.

Practice Operations: We may use and disclose your medical information if it is necessary to improve the quality of care we provide to patients or to run the Practice. We may use your medical information to conduct quality improvement activities, to obtain audit, accounting or legal services or conduct business managements and planning. For example, we may look at your medical record to evaluate whether practice personnel, your physicians, or other healthcare professionals did a good job.

Research: We may use or disclose your medical information for research projects, such as studying the effectiveness of a treatment you received. These research projects must go through a special process that protects the confidentiality of your medical information.

Required by law: Federal, state and local laws sometimes require us to disclose patients' medical information. For instance, we are required to report child abuse or neglect and must provide certain information to law enforcement officials in domestic violence cases. We are also required to give information to the State Workers Compensation Program for work-related injuries.

Public Health: We may also report certain medical information for public health purposes. For instance, we are required to report births, deaths, and communicable diseases to the State. We also may need to report patients' problems with medications or medical products to the FDA, or may notify patients of recalls of products they are using.

Public Safety: We may disclose medical information for public safety purposes in limited circumstances. We may disclose medical information to law enforcement officials in response to a search warrant or a grand jury subpoena. We may also disclose medical information to assist law enforcement officials in identifying or locating a person, to prosecute a crime of violence, to report deaths that may have resulted from criminal conduct, and to report criminal conduct at the Practice. We may also disclose your medical information to law enforcement officials and others to prevent a serious threat to health or safety.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose medical information to a government agency that oversees the practice/hospital or its personnel, such as the State Department of Health, the federal agencies that oversee Medicare, the Board of medical Examiners or the Board of Nursing. These agencies need medical information to monitor the Physician Office/Hospital's compliance with state and federal laws.

Coroners, medical Examiners and Funeral Directors: We may disclose medical information concerning deceased patients to coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors to assist them in carrying out their duties.

Organ and Tissue Donation: We may disclose medical information to organizations that handle organ, eye or tissue donation or transplantation.

Military, Veterans, National Security and Other Government Purposes: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release your medical information as required by military command authorities or to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Practice may also disclose medical information to federal officials for intelligence and national security purposes, or for Presidential Protective Services.

Judicial Proceedings: The Practice may disclose medical information if the practice is ordered to do so by a court or if the Practice receives a subpoena or search warrant. You will receive advance notice about this disclosure in most situations so that you will have a chance to object to sharing your medical information.

Information with Additional Protection: Certain types of medical information have additional protection under state or federal law. For instance, medical information about communicable disease and HIV/AIDS, and evaluation and treatment for serious mental illness is treated differently than other types of medical information. For those types of information, the Practice is required to get your permission before disclosing that information to other in many circumstances.

Other Uses and Disclosures: If the Practice wishes to use or disclose your medical information for a purpose that is not discussed in this Notice, the Practice will seek your permission. If you give your permission to the Practice, you may take back the permission any time, unless we have already relied on your permission to use or disclose the information. If you ever would like to revoke your permission, please notify the Practice manager/Director of Practice Management in writing.

## What are your rights?

Right to request your medical information: You have the right to look at your own medical information and to get a copy of that information. (The law requires us to keep the original records.) This includes your medical record, your billing record, and other records we use to make decisions about your care. To request your medical information, write to the Practice Manager/Director of Practice Management. If you request a copy of your information, we will charge you for our costs to copy the information. We will tell you in advance what the copying will cost; you can look at your record at no cost.

Right to request amendment of medical information you believe is erroneous or incomplete: If you examine your medical information and believe that some of the information is wrong or incomplete, you may ask us to amend your record. To ask us to amend your medical information, write to the Practice Manager/Director of Practice Management.

Right to get a list of certain disclosures of our medical information: You have the right to request a list of many of the disclosures we make of your medical information. If you would like to receive such a list, write to the Practice Manager/Director of Practice Management. We will provide the first list to you free, but we may charge you for any additional list your request during the same year. We will tell you in advance what this list will cost.

Right to request restrictions on how the Practice will use or disclose your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations: You have the right to request us not to make uses or disclosures of your medical information to treat you, to seek payment for care, or to operate the Practice. We are not required to agree to your request, but if we do agree, we will comply to that agreement. If you want to request a restriction, write to the Practice Manager/Director of Practice Management and describe your request in detail.

Right to request confidential communications: You have the right to ask us to communicate with you in a way that you feel is more confidential. For example, you can ask us not to call your home, but to communicate only by mail. To do this, write to the Practice Manager/Director of Practice Management. You can also ask to speak with your health care providers in private outside the presence of other patients – ask the physician.

Right to a paper copy: If you have received this notice electronically, you have the right to a paper copy at any time. You may download a paper copy of the notice from our web site at [www.weisshospital.com](http://www.weisshospital.com); or you may obtain a paper copy of the notice from the front desk.

### Changes to this Notice

From time to time, we may change our practices concerning how we use or disclose patient medical information, or how we will implement patients' rights concerning their information. We reserve the right to change this Notice and to make the provisions in our new Notice effective for all medical information we maintain. If we change these practices, we will publish a revised Notice of Privacy Practices. You can get a copy of our current notice of Privacy practices at any time by contacting the Practice Manager.

### Which Health care Providers are Covered by this Notice?

This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the Practice and its personnel, volunteers, students and trainees. The Notice also applies to other health care providers that come to the practice to care for patients, such as physicians, physician assistants, therapists and other health care providers who are not employed by the Practice such as emergency service providers, medical transportation companies, and medical equipment suppliers who come to the practice. The Practice may share your medical information with these providers for treatment purposes, to get paid for treatment, or to conduct health care operations. These health care providers will follow this Notice for information they receive about you from the Practice. These other health care providers may follow different practices at their own offices or facilities. A list of providers pertaining to your care may be obtained from the Practice Manager.

### Should you have Concerns or Complaints

Please tell us about any problems or concerns you have with your privacy rights or how the Practice uses or discloses your medical information. If you have a concern, please contact:

Local Privacy Official: (773) 564-5737

If for some reason the Practice cannot resolve your concern, you may also file a complaint with the Federal Government at the OCR/DHHS regional office. We will not penalize you or retaliate against you in any way for filing a complaint with the Federal Government.

### Do you have Questions?

The Practice is required by law to give you this Notice and to follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect. If you have any questions about this Notice, or have further questions about how the Practice may disclose your medical information, please contact the Practice Manager or Privacy Officer.

Effective: 4/14/2003  
3/05/2007

Privacy Official Contact Information:

Attn: Privacy Official

Address: Weiss Memorial Hospital  
4646 N. Marine Drive  
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: (773) 564-7748

Fax: (773) 564-5744