

**Florida Healthcare Associates**  
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## Notice of Privacy Practices

This Notice is to inform you about how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review the following very carefully. The Privacy of you Health information is important to us.

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### Our Legal Duty

We are required by 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 right concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes affect on April 14, 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 that we created or received prior to changes made.

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

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### 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 or other healthcare provider treatment to you.

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

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your health information 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, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

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 an 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. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

To Your Family and Friends: We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Patient Rights of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or any other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

**Persons Involved in Care.** We must disclose your health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including, identifying or locating) a family member, friend or any other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. 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.

**Marketing Health-Related Services:** We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

**Required by Law:** We may use or disclose your health information if required by law.

**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 of others.

**National Security:** We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counter intelligence 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 voice mail messages, postcards or letters).

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## PATIENT RIGHTS

**Access:** You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photo copies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses, such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice. If you request copies, we will charge you \$1.00 for each page and \$25.00 per hour of staff time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternate format, we will charge a cost -based fee for providing your health information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

**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 for treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last six (6) years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a twelve (12) month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

**Restriction:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

**Alternative Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. You must make your request in writing. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

**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.

**Electronic Notice:** If you receive this Notice on our website or by electronic (email), you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

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