

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND 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 at Tennessee GYN and how we may disclose it to others outside of our practice. This notice also describes the rights you have concerning your own medical information. Please review it carefully and let us know if you have questions.

Permissible Uses and Disclosures without Your Written Authorization

Treatment: We may use your medical information to provide you with medical services and supplies. We may also disclose your medical information to other health care entities who need that information to treat you, such as doctors, physician assistants, nurses, medical and nursing students, technicians, therapists, emergency service and medical transportation providers, medical equipment providers, and others involved in your care. For example, we will allow other physicians treating you to have access to your Practice medical record. Our practice may participate in a community based health information exchange to assure that your other treatment providers have quick access to your latest health information. We also may 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, or to perform follow-up calls to monitor your care experience.

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 to 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. During visits with family members and other visitors, let your physician and Practice personnel know if you do not want them to disclose your medical information during the visit.

Payment: We may 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. For the purposes of Quality Improvement, we may use your medical information to obtain audit, accounting or legal services, or to conduct business management and planning. For example, we may look at your medical record to evaluate the care provided by staff/doctor's or other health care professionals.

Health Information Organizations: Your PHI may be used and disclosed with other health care providers or other health care entities for treatment, payment and health care operations purposes, as permitted by law, through a Health Information Organization. A list of Health Information Organizations in which this facility participates may be obtained upon request. Exchange of health information in most situations, can provide faster access, better coordination of care and assist providers and public health officials in making more informed treatment decisions. You may opt out of the Health Information Organization and prevent providers from being able to search for your information through the exchange. You may opt out and prevent your medical information from being searched through the Health Information Organization by not initialing the option to share medical records on the Patient Brochure.

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: Your PHI may be used and disclosed when required to do so by any other law not already referred to in the preceding categories; such as required by the FDA, to monitor the safety of a medical device. We also are required to give information to the State Workers' Compensation Program for work-related injuries.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: Your PHI may be disclosed to a governmental authority, including a social service or protective services agency, authorized by law to receive reports of such abuse, neglect, or domestic violence if there is a reasonable belief that you are a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Public Health: We also may 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 patient 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 also may 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 also may 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 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 Practice'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 a 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.

Uses and Disclosures for Which Your Authorization is Required: With limited exceptions, the Practice must obtain your written authorization before it may disclose your medical information in the following circumstances: (1) to disclose psychotherapy notes, (2) to conduct marketing activities, or (3) to sell your medical information to a third party.

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 a 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 others in many circumstances.

Other Uses and Disclosures Requiring Authorization: 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 written authorization. If you give your authorization to the Practice, you may take back that authorization any time, unless we have already relied on your authorization to use or disclose the information. If you ever would like to revoke your authorization, please notify the Practice Manager 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 record.) 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 Office. Federal and state laws permit a reasonable cost-based fee to be charged for the copying of patient records. You will be notified in advance of the expected 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 can request us to amend your record. To make a request to amend your medical information, submit in writing.

Right to Get a List of Disclosures of Your Medical Information: You have the right to request a list of the disclosures we make of your medical information. If you would like to receive such a list, write to the Practice Manager. We will provide the first list to you free, but we may charge you for any additional lists you 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 the Practice from making uses or disclosures of your medical information to treat you, to seek payment for care, or to operate the Practice. In many cases, the Practice is not required to agree to your request for restriction, but if we do agree, we will comply with that agreement. However, the Practice must agree to your request not to disclose to your health plan any medical information about items or services for which you have paid in full, unless such disclosure is required for treatment or by law. If you do not want the practice to notify your health plan, you must notify us at the time of your registration as well as make immediate arrangements to pay in full for your treatment or visit.

Right to Revoke Your Authorization: You may revoke Your Authorization obtained in connection with your PHI, except to the extent that the Practice and/or Health Professionals have taken action in reliance upon it, by delivering a written revocation statement to the Practice Office.

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, a written notification to the Practice Manager is acceptable. At your request, you can also ask to speak with your health care providers in private outside the presence of other patients or family.

Right to a Paper Copy: A copy of this notice is available in the practice and available via paper copy.

DUTIES OF THE PRACTICE

The Practice is required by law to protect the privacy of your medical information, give you this Notice of Privacy Practices, and follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect. The Practice is also required to notify you if there is a breach of your unsecured medical information.

COMPLAINTS: The Practice is committed to ensuring your needs and requests are met with regard to your privacy and overall healthcare. If at any time you feel this is not the case, please bring them to the attention of the Practice Manager or Founding Physician.