

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 CAREFULLY.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Facility Privacy Officer.

Who Will Follow This Notice: This notice describes the facility's practices and how the facility shares your information with others for treatment, payment and health care operations purposes.

- Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your facility chart.
- All departments and units of the facility.
- Any member of a volunteer group allowed to help you while you are in the facility.
- All employees, staff, agents and other facility personnel.
- Health care providers and their authorized representatives who are members of the facility's organized health care arrangement, or "OHCA." These health care providers and their authorized representatives will be operationally and/or clinically integrated with the facility, or will otherwise be permitted by law to receive your information. For example, to the extent permitted by law and in accordance with our policies, the facility will share your medical information with physicians who are members of the facility's medical staff, even if the physician is not employed by the facility.
- All entities, sites and locations within this facility's system will follow the terms of this notice. They also may share medical information with each other for treatment, payment and health care operations purposes.

Our Pledge Regarding Medical Information: We understand that medical information about you and your healthcare is personal. We are committed to protecting medical information about you. A record is created of the care and services you receive at this facility. This record is needed to provide the necessary care and to comply with legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by the facility. Your personal physician may have different policies or notices regarding the physicians use and disclosure of your medical information in the physician's office or clinic.

This notice will tell about the ways in which the facility may use and disclose medical information about you. Also described are your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

The law requires the facility to:

- Make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private;
- Inform you of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you; and
- Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect. This notice is effective as of September 23, 2013.

HOW THE FACILITY MAY USE and DISCLOSE YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Except with respect to Highly Confidential Information (described below), we are permitted to use your health information for the following purposes:

- **Treatment.** Your medical information may be used to provide you with medical treatment or services. This medical information may be disclosed to physicians, nurses, technicians, and others involved in your care at the facility, including employees, volunteers, students and interns at the facility. This includes using and disclosing your information to treat your illness or injury, to contact you to provide appointment reminders or to give you information about treatment options or other health related benefits and services that may interest you.

For example: A physician treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. The physician may need to tell the dietitian about the diabetes so appropriate meals can be arranged. Different departments of the facility may also share medical information about you in order to coordinate your different needs, such as prescriptions, lab work and X-Rays. The facility also may disclose medical information about you to people outside the facility who may be involved in your medical care after you leave the facility, such as family members, home health agencies, and others who provide services that are part of your care.

- **Payment.** Your medical information may be used and disclosed so that the treatment and services received at the facility may be billed and payment may be collected from you, your insurance company and/or a third party. Please note, we will comply with your request not to disclose your health information to your insurance company if the information relates solely to a healthcare item or service for which you have paid out of pocket and in full to us. This restriction does not apply to the use or disclosure of your health information for your medical treatment.

For example: To the extent insurance will be responsible for reimbursing the facility for your care, the health plan or insurance company may need information about surgery you received at the facility so they can provide payment for the surgery. Information may also be given to someone who helps pay for your care. Your health plan or insurance company may also need information about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether they will cover the treatment.

- **Health Care Operations.** Your medical information may be used and disclosed for purposes of furthering day-to-day facility operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run the facility and to monitor the quality of care our patients receive.

For example: Subject to any limitations described in this notice, your medical information may be:

1. Reviewed to evaluate the treatment and services performed by our staff in caring for you.
2. Combined with that of other facility patients to decide what additional services the facility should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective.
3. Disclosed to physicians, nurses, technicians, and other agents of the facility for review and learning purposes.
4. Disclosed to healthcare students, interns and residents.
5. Combined with information from other facilities to compare how we are doing and see where we can improve the care and services offered. Information that identifies you in this set of medical information may be removed so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without knowing who the specific patients are.

- **Individuals Involved in Your Care.** With your permission, your medical information may be released to a family member, guardian or other individuals involved in your care. They may also be told about your condition unless you have requested additional restrictions. In addition, your medical information may be disclosed to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so your family can be notified about your condition, status, and location.

- **Research.** Under certain circumstances, your medical information may be used and disclosed for research purposes.

For example: A research project may involve comparing the health and recovery of all patients who received one medication to those who received another, for the same conditions. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of medical information, balancing the research needs with the patients' need for privacy of their medical information. Your medical information may be disclosed to people preparing to conduct a research project; for example, helping them look for patients with specific medical needs, so long as the medical information they review does not leave the facility. We will almost always ask for your specific 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 facility.