

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.

This practice uses and discloses health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment for treatment, for administrative purposes, and to evaluate the quality of care that you receive.

This notice describes our privacy practices. You can request a copy of this notice at any time.

Treatment, Payment, Health Care Operations

Treatment

We are permitted to use and disclose your medical information to those involved in your treatment. For example, (your care may require the involvement of a specialist. When we refer you to a specialist, we will share some or all of your medical information with that physician to facilitate the delivery of care.) OR

(the physician in this practice is a specialist. When we provide treatment, we may request that your primary care physician share your medical information with us. Also, we may provide your primary care physician with information about your particular condition so that he or she can appropriately treat you for other medical conditions, if any.)

Payment

We are permitted to use and disclose your medical information to bill and collect payment for the services provided to you. For example, we may complete a claim form to obtain payment from your insurer or HMO. The form will contain medical information, such as a description of the medical service provided to you, that your insurer or HMO needs to approve payment to us.

Health Care Operations

We are permitted to use or disclose your medical information for the purposes of health care operations, which are activities that support this practice and ensure that quality care is delivered. (For example, we may engage the services of a professional to aid this practice in its compliance programs. This person will review billing and medical files to ensure we maintain our compliance with regulations and the law.) OR

(For example, we may ask another physician to review this practice's charts and medical records to evaluate our performance so that we may ensure that only the best health care is provided by this practice.)

Disclosures That Can Be Made Without Your Authorization

To request a restriction, submit the following in writing: (a) The information to be restricted, (b) what kind of restriction you are requesting (i.e. on the use of information, disclosure of information or both), and (c) to whom the limits apply. Please send the request to the address and department listed below:

Primary Care Associates
4211 Joe Ramsey Blvd., Suite 100
Greenville, Texas 75401
Att: Medical Records Dept

You may also request that we limit disclosure to family members, other relatives, or close personal friends that may or may not be involved in your care.

Receiving Confidential Communications Health Information

You may inspect and/or copy health information that is within the designated record set, which is information that is used to make decisions about your care. Texas law requires that requests for copies be made in writing and we ask that requests for inspection of your health information also be made in writing. Please send your request to:

Primary Care Associates
4211 Joe Ramsey Blvd., Suite 100
Greenville, Texas 75401
Att: Medical Records Dept

We can refuse to provide some of the information you ask to inspect or ask to be copied if the information:

- Includes psychotherapy notes.
- Includes the identity of a person who provided information if it was obtained under a promise of confidentiality.
- Is subject to the Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments of 1988.
- Has been compiled in anticipation of litigation.

We can refuse to provide access to or copy information for other reasons, provided that we provide a review of our decision on your request. Another licensed health care provider who was not involved in the prior decision to deny access will make any such review.

Texas law requires that we are ready to provide copies or a narrative within 15 business days of your request. We will inform you of when the records are ready or if we believe access should be limited. If we deny access, we will inform you in writing.

HIPAA permits us to charge a reasonable cost based fee. The Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) has set limits on fees for copies of medical records that under some circumstances may be lower than the charges permitted by HIPAA. In any

event, the lower of the fee permitted by HIPAA or the fee permitted by TSBME will be charged.

Amendment of Medical Information

You may request an amendment of your medical information in the designated record set. Any such request must be made in writing to:

Primary Care Associates
4211 Joe Ramsey Blvd., Suite 100
Greenville, Texas, 75401
Att: Medical Records Dept.

We will respond within 60 days of your request. We may refuse to allow an amendment if the information:

- Wasn't created by this practice or the physicians here in this practice.
- Is not part of the Designated Record Set.
- Is not available for inspection because of an appropriate denial.
- Is not accurate and complete.

Even if we refuse to allow an amendment you are permitted to include a patient statement about the information at issue in your medical record. If we refuse to allow an amendment we will inform you in writing. If we approve the amendment, we will inform you in writing, allow the amendment to be made and tell others that we have the incorrect information.

Accounting of Certain Disclosures

The HIPAA privacy regulations permit you to request, and us to provide, an accounting of disclosures that are other than for treatment, payment health care operations, or made via an authorization signed by you or your representative. Your first accounting of disclosures (within a 12 month period) will be free. For additional requests within that period we are permitted to charge for the cost of providing the list. If there is a charge we will notify you and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request before any cost are incurred. Please submit any request for accounting to:

Primary Care Associates
4211 Joe Ramsey Blvd., Suite 100
Greenville, Texas, 75401
Att: Medical Records Dept.

Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives, and Other Health –related Benefits

We may contact you by (telephone, mail, or both) to provide appointment reminders, information about treatment alternatives, or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Complaints

If you are concerned that your privacy rights have been violated, you may contact the person listed below. You may also send a written complaint to the United States Department of Health and Human Services. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint with the government or us. The contact information for the United States Department of Health and Human Services is:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HIPAA Complaint
7500 Security Blvd., C5-24-04
Baltimore, MD 212144

Compliance Officer
Primary Care Associates
4211 Joe Ramsey Blvd, Suite 100
Greenville, Texas 75401

Our Promise to You

We are required by law and regulation to protect the privacy of your medical information.