

Williamsburg Family Physicians Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information Effective Date: 10/1/2025

**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!**

The office is permitted by federal privacy laws to make uses and disclosures of your health information for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. Protected health information is the information we create AND OBTAIN IN PROVIDING OUR SERVICES TO YOU. Such information may include documenting your symptoms, examination, test results, diagnoses, treatment, and applying for future care or treatment. It also includes billing documents for those services.

Examples of uses or your health information for treatment purposes are:

- Doctors, nurses, medical assistants, students and other staff involved with your treatment will use your medical information to provide quality treatment. Examples are your doctor may give your name and basic information to a lab that will analyze specimens to help diagnose medical conditions. We may contact your pharmacy to order a prescription. We may communicate about your condition with other health care professionals who help you such as dieticians.
- We send bills to you or the responsible party to collect payment for the services we provide. We transmit insurance claims to your insurance company through our claims clearinghouse. We may utilize a collection agency to collect overdue bills. These activities involve a part of your medical information that is used in a limited way.

Examples of uses of your information for health care operations:

We obtain services from our insurers or other business associates such as quality assessment, quality improvement, outcome evaluation, protocol and clinical guideline development, training programs, credentialing, medical review, legal services, and insurances. We will share information about you with such insurers or other business associates as necessary to obtain these services.

Your Health information Rights

The health and billing records we maintain are the physical property of the office. The information in it, however, belongs to you. You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your health information by delivering the request to our office – we are not required to grant the request, but we will comply with any request granted;
- Request a restriction on disclosures of medical information to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations (and is not for purposes of carrying out treatment; and the PHI pertains solely to health care services for which the provider has been paid out of pocket in full – we must comply with this request;
- Obtain a paper copy of the current Notice of Privacy Practices for protected Health information ("Notice") by making a request at our office;
- Request that you be allowed to inspect and copy your health record and billing record- you may exercise this right by delivering the request to our office;
- Appeal a denial of access to your protected health information, except in certain circumstances;
- Request your health care record be amended to correct incomplete information by delivering a request to our office. We may deny your request if you ask us to amend information.

If your request is denied, you will be informed of the reason for the denial and will have an opportunity to submit a statement of disagreement to be maintained with your records;

- Request that communication of your health information be made by alternative means or at an alternative location by delivering the request in writing to our office;
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information as required to be maintained by law by delivering a request to our office. An accounting will not include uses and disclosures of information for treatment, payment, or operations; disclosures or uses made to you or made at your request; uses or disclosures made pursuant to an authorization signed by you; uses or disclosures made in a facility directory or to family members or friends relevant to that person's involvement in your care or in payment for such care; or; uses or disclosures to notify family or others responsible for your care of your location, condition, or your death.
- Revoke authorizations that you made previously to use or disclose information by delivering a written revocation to our office, except to the extent information or action has already been taken.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact the office manager in person or in writing, during regular business hours. She will inform you of the steps that need to be taken to exercise your rights.

Our Responsibilities

The office is required to;

- Maintain the privacy of your health information as required by law;
- Provide you with a notice as to our duties and privacy practices as to the information we collect and maintain about you;
- Abide by the terms of this Notice;
- Notify you if we cannot accommodate a requested restriction or request; and,
- Accommodate your reasonable requests regarding methods to communicate health information with you.

We reserve the right to amend, change, or eliminate provisions in our privacy practices and access practices and to enact new provisions regarding the protected health information we maintain. If our information practices change, we will amend our notice. You are entitled to receive a revised copy of the notice by calling the requesting a copy of our "Notice" or by visiting our office and picking up a copy.

To Request information or File a Complaint

If you have a question, would like additional information, or want to report a problem regarding the handling of your information, you may contact the office manager.

Additionally, if you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint at our office by delivering the written complaint to the office manager.

Other disclosures and Uses

Communication with Family- Using our best judgment, we may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend, or any other person you identify, health information relevant to the person's involvement in your care or in payment for such care if you do not object or in an emergency. Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information will only be made with written authorization from you, which may be revoked at a later time.

Appointments and Information- We may contact you to provide appointment reminders, provide treatment information and alternatives, or their health-related benefits that may be of interest to you.

Notification- unless you object, we may use or disclose your protected health information to notify, or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative, or other person responsible for your care. About your location, and about your general condition, or your death.

Research- We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your protected health information.

Disaster Relief- We may use and disclose your protected health information to assist in disaster relief efforts.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – We may disclose to the FDA your protected health information relating to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, products, and product defects, or post- marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacements.

Workers Compensation- If you are seeking compensation through workers compensation, we may disclose your protected health information to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to Workers Compensation.

Public Health- As authorized by law, we may disclose your protected health information to public health or legal authorities charge with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability; to report reactions to medications or problems with products; to notify people of recalls; to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or who is at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

Abuse and Neglect- We may disclose your protected health information to public authorities as allowed by law to report abuse or neglect.

Employers- We may release health information about you to your employer if we provide health care services to you at the request of your employer, and the health care services are provided either to conduct an evaluation relating to medical surveillance of the workplace or to evaluate whether you have a work-related illness or injury. In such circumstances, we will give you written notice of such release of information to your employer. Any other disclosures to your employer will be made only if you execute a specific authorization for the release of that information to your employer.

Correctional Institutions- If you are an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose to the institution or its agents the protected health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

Law Enforcement- We may disclose your protected health information for law enforcement purposes as requested by law, such as when required by a court order, or in cases involving felony prosecution, or to the extent an individual is in the custody of law enforcement.

Health Oversight- Federal law allows us to release your protected health information to appropriate health oversight agencies or for health oversight activities.

Judicial/Administrative Proceedings- We may disclose your protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding as allowed or required by law, with your authorization, or as directed by a proper court order.

Serious Threat- To avert a serious threat to health or safety, we may disclose your protected health information consistent with applicable law to prevent or lessen a serious, imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Coroners, Medical examiners, and Funeral Directors- We may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary for example to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release health information about patients of Covered Entities to funeral directors as necessary for them to carry out their duties.