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## Statement of Privacy Practices

Our office is dedicated to protecting the privacy rights of our patients and the confidential information entrusted us. The commitment of each employee to ensure that your health information is never compromised is a principal concept of our practice. We may, from time to time, amend our privacy policies and practices but will always inform you of any changes that might affect your rights.

### **Protecting Your Personal Healthcare Information**

We use and disclose the information we collect from you only as allowed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and the state of Virginia. This includes issues relating to your treatment, payment, and our health care operations. Your personal health information will never be given to anyone without your written consent. You may give written authorization for us to disclose your information to anyone you choose, for any purpose.

Our office and electronic systems are secure from unauthorized access, and our employees are trained to make certain that the confidentiality of your records is always protected. Our privacy policy and practices apply to all former, current, and future patients, so you can be confident that your protected health information will never be improperly disclosed or released.

### **Collecting Protected Health Information**

We will only request personal information needed to provide our standard of quality health care, implement payment activities, conduct normal health practice operations, and comply with the law. This may include your name, address, telephone number(s), Social Security Number, employment data, medical history, health records, etc. While most of the information will be collected from you, we may obtain information from third parties if it is deemed necessary. Regardless of the source, your personal information will always be protected to the full extent of the law.

### **Disclosure of your Protected Health Information**

As stated above, we may disclose information as required by law. We are obligated to provide information to law enforcement and governmental officials under certain circumstances. We will never use your information for marketing purposes without your written consent.

We may use and/or disclose your health information to communicate reminders about your appointments including voicemail messages, answering machines, electronic mail, world wide web and postal mail.

**Special Notice Regarding Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Records — Effective February 16, 2026** Certain health information related to substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis, treatment, or referral for treatment is protected by federal confidentiality regulations (42 CFR Part 2) and may receive greater privacy protections than those provided under HIPAA. SUD records may not be used or disclosed for civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against a patient without the patient's written consent or a court order, even when disclosure would otherwise be permitted under HIPAA. Any disclosure of SUD-related information is subject to strict redisclosure limitations. Recipients of this information may not redisclose it unless expressly permitted by federal law or authorized in writing by the patient. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of SUD records and to comply with all applicable federal and Washington State regulations governing their use and disclosure.

### **Patient Rights**

You have a right to request copies of your healthcare information; to request copies in many formats; and to request a list of instances in which we, or our business associates, have disclosed your protected information for uses other than stated above. All such requests must be in writing. We may charge you for copies in an amount allowed by law. If you believe your rights have been violated, we urge you to notify us immediately so that we may take appropriate action.

*We thank you for being a patient at our office. Please let us know if you have any questions concerning your privacy rights and the protection of your personal health information.*