



1-888-CARMEL-2  
(227-6352)  
www.carmelcare.net

## HIPAA 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.**

The Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information (PHI) to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. Protected health information is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health condition and related health care services.

### **Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your physician, our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you, to pay your health care bills, to support the operation of the physician's practice, and any other use required by law.

*Treatment:* We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third party. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician to ensure that the physician has the necessary information to diagnose or to treat you.

*Payment:* Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services.

*Healthcare Operations:* We may use and disclose protected health information about you for operations of our health care practice. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our practice and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use health information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may also combine health information about many patients to decide what additional services we should offer, what services are not needed or whether certain new treatments are effective. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet or electronic form, where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may use or disclose your information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment or inform you of the need for an appointment, and inform you about health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

## **Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures**

We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your authorization. These situations include: as required by law, public health issues as required by law, communicable diseases, health oversight, abuse or neglect, food and drug administration requirements, legal proceedings, law enforcement, coroners, funeral directors, organ donation, research, criminal activity, military activity and national security, workers' compensation, inmates, and other required uses and disclosures. Under the law, we must make disclosures to you upon your request. Under the law, we must also disclose your protected health information when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements under Section 164.500.

*Abuse or Neglect:* We may disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of child or elder abuse or neglect. In addition, we may disclose your protected health information if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to the government entity or agency authorized to receive such information. In this case, the disclosure will be made consistent with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

*Legal Proceedings:* We may disclose protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceedings, in response to an order of the court or administrative tribunal (to extent such disclosure is expressly authorized), in certain conditions in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful legal process.

*Workers' Compensation:* We may disclose your protected health information as authorized to comply with the workers' compensation laws and other similar legally established programs.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures will be made only with your consent, authorization or opportunity to object unless required by law. You may revoke the authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your physician or the physician's practice has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

## **Your Rights**

The following are statements of your rights with respect to your protected health information.

You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information (fees may apply) – Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records: psychotherapy notes, information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or used in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding protective health information whose disclosure may result in harm or injury to you or to another person, or information that was obtained under a promise of confidentiality.

You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information – This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply.

Your physician is not required to agree to your requested restriction.

You have the right to request to receive confidential communications – You have the right to request confidential communication from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us, upon request, even if you have agreed to accept this notice alternatively, e.g. electronically.

You have the right to request an amendment to your protected health information – If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures – You have the right to receive an accounting of all disclosures except for disclosures: pursuant to an authorization, for purposes of treatment, payment, healthcare operations; required by law, that occurred six years prior to the date of this request.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically.

We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and we will notify you of such changes on the following appointment.

We will also make available copies of our new notice if you wish to obtain one.

### **Complaints**

You may complain to us or to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. You may file a complaint with us by notifying our Compliance Officer of your complaint. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of, and provide individuals with, this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. We are also required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. If you have any questions in reference to this form, please ask to speak with our HIPAA Compliance Officer in person or by phone at our main phone number.