

Dr. Arthur H. Skalski, M.D.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Your medical record is called Protected Health Information (PHI) under Federal Law 104-191 - The Health Insurance & Patient Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA-1996). As of March 1, 2003, all medical practices are required by law to notify you of your privacy rights, and we will post any changes to these rights on the examination bulletin board.

Use of Protected Health Information with your authorization.

By signing the authorization to be treated on our "Patient Registration" you agree that your PHI may be used or disclosed by our office staff for the purpose of treatment, payment, health care operations (TPO), or judicial proceedings and that we will call you by name in our waiting room. You also may have authorized a release of your PHI by a written statement from your employer, attorney, or insurance carrier. Your PHI may be required for our business records, our computer/billing system, pharmacies, other physicians, laboratories, your employer, or therapists before they will process our request for TPO. You may revoke any authorization, provided we receive it in writing.

What we mean by:

Treatment-other treating personnel, pharmacists, testing facilities.

Payment-for billing and electronic records your diagnosis and treatment dates are disclosed.

Health care operations-compliance audits, public health, office administration or contractual requests.

Judicial proceedings-any court orders, subpoenas, legal audits, or lawful demand.

Use of Protected Health Information without your authorization.

Your PHI may be disclosed as required by law, for public health activities, victims of abuse, health and oversight proceedings, law enforcement, judicial and administrative proceedings, funeral homes, research purposes, or specialized governmental functions. In such cases, we will release information only if we have received written request with documentation that the PHI disclosed is expressly authorized by the order.

What we mean by:

Law-if the law requires we will notify you of such disclosure.

Public health activities-FDA, communicable disease, work-related injury, instances of abuse or neglect.

Health & Oversight-a legal oversight agency for any investigation in which you are not involved.

Law enforcement-properly issued subpoena, warrant, court order, or legal summons.

Disclosure of Protected Health Information requiring your authorization.

Our office does not EMAIL or FAX information, unless you request it in writing. We will not disclose your PHI to family members, personal representatives or guardians unless you request it. In an emergency, we may disclose only relevant information if, in our professional judgment, it is in your best interest. You may request that we modify or do not use or disclose any or part of your PHI in order to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations. This right to restrict does not extend to disclosures as required by law. You may inspect or request a copy of your PHI (in writing) to be sent to you or an alternative location or by alternative means. Our office has the right to charge a fee to cover supplies, labor costs, and postage. There may be an additional charge to prepare a summary or explanation of the records. The records shall be sent within 30 days from receipt of the written request and payment. If these copies cannot be sent within 30 days we will notify you.

I authorize the following people to have unlimited access to my PHI (any and all of my medical information):

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Relationship	Date

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Relationship	Date

I have reviewed this notice of Privacy Practices and understand the address location and contact information for: the complete HIPAA-1996, and the privacy Officer for this office is available upon my request, and also that compliance complaints can be made to the Department of Health and Human Services.

_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date