

We may also deny your request if:

- the information was not created by us, or the person who created it is no longer available to make the amendment;
- the information is not part of the record which
- you are permitted to inspect and copy;
- the information is not part of the designated record set kept by this practice; or if it is the opinion of the health care provider that the information is accurate and complete.

Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation of how we use or disclose your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. For example - you could request that we not disclose information about a prior treatment to a family member or friend who may be involved in your care or payment for care. Your request must be made in writing to our practice manager. We are not required to agree to your request if we feel it is in your best interest to use or disclose that information. However, if we do agree, we will comply with your request unless that information is needed for emergency treatment.

Breach of Your Medical Information.

You also have the right to be notified in the event of a breach of medical information about you. If a breach of your medical information occurs and if that information is unsecured (not encrypted), we will notify you promptly.

Opt-Out of Fundraising Communications. If we conduct fundraising and we use communications like the U.S. Postal Service or electronic email for fundraising, you may opt-out of receiving such communications from us by contacting our Privacy Officer.

An Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request a list of the disclosures of your health information we have made outside of our practice that were not for treatment, payment, or health care operations. Your request must be made in writing and must state the time period for the requested information. Requests made for information for any dates prior to April 14, 2003 (the compliance date per federal regulation) or for a period of time greater than six years (our legal obligation to retain information) will not be honored. Your first request for a list of disclosures within a 12-month period will be free. If you request an additional list within 12-months of the first request, we may charge you a fee for the costs of providing the subsequent list. We will notify you of such costs and afford you the opportunity to withdraw your request before any costs are incurred.

Request Alternate Method of Contact. You have the right to request how we communicate with you to preserve your privacy. For example - you may request that we call you only at your work number, or by mail at a special address or postal box. Your request must be made in writing and must

specify how or where we are to contact you. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

File a Complaint. If you believe we have violated your medical information privacy rights, you have the right to file a complaint with our Privacy Officer or directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

To file a complaint, you must make it in writing within 180 days of the suspected violation. Provide as much detail as you can about the suspected violation and send it to West Augusta Obstetrics & Gynecology or:

Office for Civil Rights

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Room 509F, HHH Building

Washington, D.C. 20201

There will be no retaliation for your filing a complaint.

Uses or Disclosures Not Covered

Uses or disclosures of your health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us may only be made with your written authorization. You may revoke such authorization in writing at any time and we will no longer disclose health information about you for the reasons stated in your written authorization.

Disclosures made in reliance on the authorization prior to the revocation are not affected by the revocation.

For More Information

We reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practices and to make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain. You may request a written copy of a revised Notice of Privacy Practices from this office. If you have questions or would like additional information, you may contact our Privacy Officer at (706) 863-5082.

Effective Date: 03/26/2013

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

**West Augusta Obstetrics &
Gynecology**

1126 Medical Center Drive
Augusta, GA 30909
(706) 863-5082

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access this information. Please review it carefully.

In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, we are required by law to provide you with this notice that explains our privacy practice with regard to your medical information and how we may use and disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment, and for health care operation well as for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. You have certain rights regarding the privacy of your protected health information and we describe them in this notice.

Ways in Which We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information

The following paragraphs describe different ways that we use and disclose your health information. We have provided an example for each category, but these examples are not meant to be exhaustive. We assure you that all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose your health information fall within one of these categories.

Treatment: We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. We will also disclose your health information to other physicians who may be treating you. Additionally, we may from time to time disclose your health information to another physician who we have requested to be involved in your care. For example- we would disclose your health information to a specialist to whom we have referred you for a diagnosis to help in your treatment.

Payment: We will use and disclose your protected health information to obtain payment for the health care services we provide you. For example- we may include information with a bill to a third party payer that identifies you, your diagnosis, procedures performed, and supplies used in rendering the services.

Health Care Operations: We will use and disclose your protected health information to support the business activities of our practice. For example- we may use medical information about you to review and evaluate our treatment and services or to evaluate our staff's performance while caring for you. In addition, we may disclose your health information to third party business associates who perform billing, consulting, or transcription services for our practice.

Other Ways We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information

Appointment Reminders: We will use and disclose your protected health information to contact you as a reminder about scheduled appointment.

Treatment Alternatives: We will use and disclose your protected health information to tell you about or to recommend possible alternative treatments or options that may be of interest to you.

Others Involved In Your Care: We will use and disclose your protected health information to a family member, a relative, a close friend, or any other person you identify that is involved in your medical care or payment of care.

Research: We will use and disclose your protected health information to researchers provided the research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

As Required by Law: We will use and disclose your protected health information when required to by federal, state, or local law. You will be notified of any such disclosures.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Public Health or Safety: We will use and disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is permitted to collect or receive the information for the purpose of controlling disease, injury, or disability. If directed by that health authority, we will also disclose your health information to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

Worker's Compensation: We will use and disclose your protected health information for worker's compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the physical property the health care practitioner or facility that compiled it the information belongs to you.

A Paper Copy of This Notice: You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice upon request. You may obtain a copy by asking our receptionist at your next visit or by calling and asking us to mail you a copy.

Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy the protected health information that we maintain about you in our designated record set for as long as we maintain that information. This designated record set includes your medical and billing records, as well as any other records we use for making decisions about you. Any psychotherapy notes that may have been included in records we received about you are not available for your inspection or copying by law.

If we maintain your medical records in an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system, you may obtain an electronic copy of your medical records. You may also instruct us in writing to send an electronic copy of your medical records to a third party.

If we wish to inspect or copy your medical information, you must submit your request in writing West Augusta Obstetrics & Gynecology. You may mail your request, or bring it to our office. We will have 3 days to respond to your request for information that we maintain at our practice site. If the information is stored off-site, we are allowed up to 60 days to respond but must inform you of this delay. We may charge you a fee for the cost of copying, mailing or other supplies used in fulfilling your request.

Request Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your medical information if you feel it is incomplete or inaccurate. You must make this request in writing to our practice manager, stating exactly what information is incomplete or inaccurate and your reasoning that supports your request. We are permitted to deny your request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support your request.