

# HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

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**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.**

This 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 (TPO) 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 or condition and related health care services.

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

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

Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your dentist, 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 this dental 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, we would disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to a home health agency that provides care to you. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician, or other specialist, to whom you have been referred to ensure that they have the necessary information to diagnose or treat you.

**Payment:** Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. For example, obtaining approval for treatment or payment for treatment, relevant protected health information will be disclosed to the health plan to obtain the approval or payment.

**Healthcare Operations:** We may use or disclose, as-needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of your dentist's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of staff, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. For example, we may disclose your protected health information to any staff that see patients at our office. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when the dentist is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment or to make a "care call" to assess your post-appointment health.

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, and Organ Donation: Research: Criminal Activity: Military Activity and National Security: Workers' Compensation: Inmates: Required Uses and Disclosures: Under the law, we must make disclosures to you and when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of Section 164.500.

**Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures Will Be Made Only With Your Consent, Authorization or**