



Patient Name:

Patient ID:

Policies and Practices to Protect the Privacy of Your Health Information

HIPPA and CONFIDENTIALITY INFORMATION

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I. Uses and Disclosures for Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

Effective/Last Revised Date: June 15, 2008

Wright Psychological Services is required by federal law to protect the privacy of your health information in the context of your mental health and substance abuse health care administered by this agency. We are also required to send you this notice, which explains how we may use information about you and when we can give out or "disclose" that information to others. You also have rights regarding your health information that are described in this notice.

The terms "information" or "health information" in this notice include any personal information that is created or received by a health care provider that relates to your physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or the payment for such health care.

We have the right to change our privacy practices. If we do, we will provide the revised notice to you within 60 days by direct mail or post it in our agency office or on the website.

We may use or disclose your protected health information (PHI), for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes with your consent. To help clarify these terms, here are some definitions:

- "PHI" refers to information in your health record that could identify you.
- "Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations"
 - Treatment is when we provide, coordinate or manage your health care and other services related to your health care. An example of treatment would be when we consult with another health care provider, such as your family physician or another Therapist. Another example would be when we release your treatment plan to your insurance company and/or to your primary care physician.
 - Payment is when we obtain reimbursement for your healthcare. Examples of payment are when we disclose your PHI to your health insurer to obtain reimbursement for your health care or to determine eligibility or coverage.
 - Health Care Operations are activities that relate to the performance and operation of my practice. Examples of health care operations are quality assessment and improvement activities, business-related matters such as audits and administrative services, and case management and care coordination.
- "Use" applies only to activities within our [office, clinic, practice group, etc.] such as sharing, employing, applying, utilizing, examining, and analyzing information that identifies you.
- "Disclosure" applies to activities outside of our [office, clinic, practice group, etc.], such as releasing, transferring, or providing access to information about you to other parties.

II. Uses and Disclosures Requiring Authorization

HOW WE USE OR DISCLOSE INFORMATION

We must use and disclose your health information to provide information:

- To you or someone who has the legal right to act for you (your personal representative);
- To the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, if necessary, to ensure that your privacy is protected; and
- Where required by law.

We may use or disclose PHI for purposes outside of treatment, payment, or health care operations when your appropriate authorization is obtained. An "authorization" is written permission above and beyond the general consent that permits only specific disclosures. In those instances when we asked for information for purposes outside of treatment, payment or health care operations, we will obtain an authorization from you before releasing this information. We will also need to obtain an authorization before releasing your Psychotherapy Notes. "Psychotherapy Notes" are notes we have made about your conversation during a private, group, joint, or family counseling session, which we have kept separate from the rest of your medical record. These notes are given a greater degree of protection than PHI.

You may revoke all such authorizations (of PHI or Psychotherapy Notes) at any time, provided each revocation is in writing. You may not revoke an authorization to the extent that (1) we have relied on that authorization; or (2) if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage, law provides the insurer the right to contest the claim under the policy.

III. Uses and Disclosures with Neither Consent nor Authorization

We have the right to use and disclose health information to pay for your health care and operate our business. For example, we may use your health information:

- ñ **To process** claims for health care services you receive.
- ñ **For Treatment.** We may disclose health information to your doctors or hospitals to help them provide medical care to you.
- ñ **For Health Care Operations.** We may use or disclose health information as necessary to operate and manage our business and to help manage your health care coverage. For example, we might talk to your doctor to suggest a disease management or wellness program that could help improve your general health.
- ñ **To Provide Information on Health Related Programs or Products** such as alternative medical treatments and programs or about health related products and services.
- ñ **To Referral Sources.** If you are referred through another agency such as your Primary Care Physician, Juvenile Court, DFCS, Psychiatric Hospital, CMHC, etc., we may share summary information and admission and discharge information with the referral source. In addition, we may share other health information with the referral source for case management purposes if the referral source agrees to special restriction on its use and disclosure of the information.
- ñ **For Appointment Reminders.** We may use health information to contact you for appointment reminders with providers who provide medical or mental health care to you.

We may use or disclose PHI *without your consent* or authorization in the following circumstances under limited circumstances:

- ñ **To Persons Involved With Your Care.** We may use or disclose your health information to a person involved in your care, such as a family member, when you are incapacitated or in an emergency, or when permitted by law.
- ñ **For Public Health Activities** such as reporting disease outbreaks.
- ñ **For Reporting Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence** to government authorities, including social service or protective service agencies. If we have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused, we must report that belief to the appropriate authority. If we have reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult or elder person has had a physical injury or injuries inflicted upon such disabled adult or elder person, other than by accidental means, or has been neglected or exploited, we must report that belief to the appropriate authority.



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VII. Patient's Consent

I consent for my therapist to disclose my protected health information (PHI) as required by my insurance company. Furthermore, if my insurance company requires coordination of care with my Primary Care Provider (PCP), I consent for my therapist to disclose my protected health information to my PCP. I have read this statement of .practices and policies and I both understand and approve of its content.

Printed Name of Client

Witness

Signature of Client and/or Guardian

Date