



# Women's Care Florida

*Exceptional Women's Care for Every Patient, Every Time*

**BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT YOU ARE WAIVING YOUR RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL AND YOU ARE AGREEING TO ARBITRATE ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO YOUR MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT**

**ARBITRATION AGREEMENT FOR CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT**

**1. AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CLAIMS REGARDING FUTURE CARE & TREATMENT.**

The patient agrees that any controversy, including without limitation, claims for medical malpractice, personal injury, loss of consortium, or wrongful death, arising out of or in any way relating to the diagnosis, treatment, or care of the patient by the undersigned provider of medical services, including any partners, agents, or employees of the provider of medical services, shall be submitted to binding arbitration.

**2. AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CLAIMS REGARDING PAST CARE & TREATMENT.** The patient further agrees that any controversy, including without limitation, claims for medical malpractice, personal injury, loss of consortium, or wrongful death, arising out of or in any way relating to the past diagnosis, treatment, or care of the patient by a provider of medical services, or the provider's agents or employees, shall be submitted to binding arbitration.

**3. WAIVER OF RIGHT TO JURY TRIAL.** Both parties to this Agreement, by entering into it, are giving up their constitutional right to have any such dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of binding arbitration.

**4. ALL CLAIMS MUST BE ARBITRATED BY ALL CLAIMANTS.** All claims based upon the same occurrence, incident, or care shall be arbitrated in one proceeding. It is the intention of the parties that this Agreement bind all parties whose claims may arise out of or relate to treatment or services provided by the provider of medical services, including the patient, the patient's estate, any spouse or heirs of the patient, any biological or adoptive parent of the patient and any children of the patient, whether born or unborn, at the time of the occurrence giving rise to the claim. In the case of any pregnant mother, the term "patient" herein shall mean both the mother and the mother's expected child or children. By signing this Agreement, the parties consent to the participation in this arbitration of any person or entity that would otherwise be a proper additional party in a court action.

**5. ARBITRATION PROCEDURES.** The parties agree and recognize that the provisions of Florida Statutes, Chapter 766, governing medical malpractice claims shall apply to the parties and/or claimant(s) in all respects except that at the conclusion of the pre-suit screening period and provided there is no mutual agreement to arbitrate under Florida Statutes, 766.106 or 766.207, the parties and/or claimant(s) shall resolve any claim through arbitration pursuant to this Agreement. Accordingly, any demand for arbitration shall not be made until the conclusion of the pre-suit screening period under Florida Statutes, Chapter 766. Within (20) twenty days after a party to this Agreement has given written notice to the other of a demand for arbitration of said dispute or controversy, the parties to the dispute or controversy shall

**BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT YOU ARE WAIVING YOUR RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL AND YOU ARE AGREEING TO ARBITRATE ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO YOUR MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT**

each have an absolute and unfettered right to appoint an arbitrator of its choice and shall give notice of such appointment to the other. Within a reasonable time after such notices have been given the two arbitrators so selected shall select a neutral arbitrator and give notice of the selection thereof to the parties. The arbitrators shall hold a hearing within a reasonable time from the date of notice of selection of the neutral arbitrator. The parties agree that the arbitration proceedings are private, not public, and the privacy of the parties and of the arbitration proceedings shall be preserved.

**6. NICA.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of any law related to Florida's Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan (Florida Statutes 766.301 – 766. 316, hereinafter the "Plan"). If a request to submit a claim to the Plan is made by a party to this Agreement, all arbitration proceedings shall be stayed until it is determined whether the claim filed with the Plan is compensable. In accordance with the Plan, claims for "birth-related neurological injury", as defined by the Plan, shall be the exclusive remedy except that a civil action shall not be foreclosed and shall be submitted to binding arbitration in accordance with this Agreement where there is clear and convincing evidence of bad faith or malicious purpose or willful and wanton disregard of human rights, safety or property, provided that such suit is filed prior to and in lieu of payment of an award under the Plan and provided that such suit shall be filed before the award of the Division of Administrative Hearings becomes conclusive and binding.

**7. ARBITRATION EXPENSES.** Expenses of the arbitration shall be shared equally by the parties to this Agreement.

**8. APPLICABLE LAW.** Except as herein provided, the arbitration shall be conducted and governed by the provisions of the Florida Arbitration Code, Florida Statutes, Section 682.01 et seq. The arbitration panel shall allow for reasonable discovery in accordance with the issues raised related to any claim based upon a reasonable schedule set by such arbitration panel, which shall at least include discovery related to: the disclosure of experts and witnesses; expert, witness and party depositions; and written discovery, including the power of each party to issue subpoenas. In conducting the arbitration under Florida Statutes, Section 682.01 et seq., all substantive provisions of Florida law governing medical malpractice claims and damages related thereto, including but not limited to, Florida's Wrongful Death Act, the standard of care for medical providers, caps on damages under Florida Statutes 766.118, the applicable statute of limitations and repose as well as and the application of collateral sources and setoffs shall be applied. Venue for the arbitration shall be held in the county where the medical services, that are the subject of the arbitration, were rendered.

**9. EFFECT OF REFUSAL TO PROCEED WITH ARBITRATION.** In the event that any party to this Agreement refuses to go forward with arbitration, the party compelling arbitration reserves the right to proceed with arbitration, the appointment of an arbitrator, and hearings to resolve the dispute, despite the refusal to participate or absence of the opposing party. Submission of any dispute under this agreement to arbitration may only be avoided by a valid court order, indicating that the dispute is beyond the scope of this arbitration Agreement or contains an illegal aspect precluding the resolution of the dispute by arbitration. Any party to this Agreement who refuses to go forward with arbitration hereby acknowledges that the arbitrator will go forward with the arbitration hearing and render a binding decision without the participation of the party opposing arbitration or despite that party's absence at the arbitration hearing.

**BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT YOU ARE WAIVING YOUR RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL AND YOU ARE AGREEING TO ARBITRATE ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO YOUR MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT**

**10. SEVERABILITY.** If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and shall not be affected by the invalidity of any other provision.

**11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY PATIENT.** The patient, by signing this agreement, also acknowledges that he or she has been informed that:

- a. **NO DURESS.** The Agreement may not be submitted to a patient for approval when the patient's condition prevents the patient from making a rational decision whether or not to agree;
- b. **AGREEMENT BASED UPON OWN FREE WILL.** The decision whether or not to sign the agreement is solely a matter for the patient's determination without any influence by the physician or hospital;
- c. **BINDING ARBITRATION AND EFFECT ON RIGHT OF APPEAL.** Binding arbitration means that the parties give up their right to go to court to assert or defend a claim covered by this Agreement. The resolution of claims covered by this Agreement will be determined by a panel of arbitrators and not a judge or jury. Each party is entitled to a fair hearing, but the arbitration procedures are simpler and more limited than rules applicable in court. Arbitration decisions are as enforceable as any court order. The decision of an arbitration panel is final and there will generally be no right to appeal an adverse decision.
- d. **READ AGREEMENT, VIEWED VIDEO, AND UNDERSTOOD.** I have read and understand the above Agreement and I have carefully viewed a video program that was presented to me that explained this Agreement to my satisfaction. I understand that I have the right to have my questions about arbitration or this Agreement answered and I do not have any unanswered questions. I execute this Agreement of my own free will and not under any duress.
- e. **SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT.** This Agreement shall be effective upon the patient's and/or the patient's representative's signature below. Upon such signature, this Agreement shall be deemed to be fully executed and binding upon all parties.



Robert W. Yelverton, M.D., Chief Medical Officer  
On Behalf of Women's Care Florida, LLC  
and as an agent on behalf of its physicians, partners,  
agents and employees

By \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Patient (Sign & Print Name)

By \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian if patient is a Minor (Sign & Print Name)