Pain Management of Tulsa
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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

Pain Management of Tulsa is committed to protecting your medical information. This Notice describes your rights and our legal duties regarding your protected health information. We create and maintain, on a variety of media, including paper, computers and films, a record of the care and services you receive. This information is available to all Office Practice employees, and physicians, who need this information to provide treatment to you, to obtain payment for services rendered to you or to support health care operations necessary for the operational aspects of your care. We are required by law to:

- Have proper safeguards in place to discourage improper use or access.
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of your personal and protected health information and records.
- Describe your rights and our legal duties regarding your protected health information.

WHAT DO THESE WORDS MEAN?

Protected Health Information (PHI)
Your personal and protected health information created and used by us to provide care to you and bill for services provided.

Privacy Officer
The person responsible for the policies and procedures developed to protect your PHI and for investigating your complaints on how your PHI is used or disclosed.

Business Associate
An independent business or individual who contracts with the Office Practice for services provided to you or the Office Practice.

Authorization
A document signed by you that gives us permission to use or disclose your protected health information for purposes other than your treatment, obtaining payment for your treatment or our health care operations.

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH MY MEDICAL AND BILLING INFORMATION?
The following categories describe how we may use and disclose your protected health information. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. To ensure compliance with Oklahoma law, we will obtain your consent for the use and disclosure of your protected health information. INFORMATION USED AND DISCLOSED MAY INCLUDE RECORDS WHICH MAY INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF A COMMUNICABLE OR VENEREAL DISEASE AND MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, DISEASES SUCH AS HEPATITIS, SYPHILIS, GONORREA AND THE HUMAN IMMUNO-DEFICIENCY VIRUS ALSO KNOWN AS ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS). If you do not consent, we cannot provide you treatment except in emergency situations or when we cannot communicate with you for some other reason.

1. Treatment: We may use your protected health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose your protected health information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other Office Practice personnel who are involved in your care.

   Example:
   o The surgeon treating your broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process.
   o The doctor treating you for high blood pressure may ask a nurse to take your blood pressure and report this to the doctor.

   We also may disclose your medication information to other medical personnel outside the office practice that will provide medical treatment or services.

   Example:
   o The treating doctor may send a sample of your blood to be tested at a lab and inform the lab of your condition and a brief medical history so the lab will know what tests to run.

2. Payment: We may use and disclose your protected health information so that the treatment and services you receive may be billed to and payment collected from you, your insurance company or a third party.

   Examples:
   o We may need to give your health plan copies of your physician’s chart notes about the treatment you received in the office for high blood pressure so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the treatment.
   o We may also tell your health plan about a blood pressure treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.
3. **Health Care Operations:** We may use or disclose your protected health information for Office Practice operations. These uses and disclosures are needed to run the Office Practice and make sure that all our patients receive quality care.

*Examples:*
- We may use your blood pressure measurements to review our treatment and services and evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you.
- We may also combine medical information about many office patients to decide what additional services the office should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective.
- We may also combine medical information we have with medical information from other offices to compare how we are doing and see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer.

4. **Business Associates:** We may disclose your protected health information to Business Associates independent of the Office Practice and with whom we contract to provide services on our behalf. We will only make these disclosures after receiving satisfactory assurances that the Business Associate will properly safeguard your privacy and the confidentiality of your protected health information.

*Examples:*
- We may contract with a company outside of the Office Practice to provide medical transcription services for the Office Practice or to provide collection services for past due accounts.

5. **Appointment Reminders:** We may use and disclose your protected health information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or medical care. This may be done through an automated system or by one of our staff members. If you are not at home, we may leave this information on your answering machine or in a message left with the person answering the telephone.

6. **Health Related Benefits and Services:** We may use and disclose your protected health information to tell you about health-related benefits or services to recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

7. **Facility Directory:** We may release your name and general condition to people who ask for you by name so your family and friends can generally how you are doing. *If you do not want to be included in this directory, notify Office Practice personnel during registration.*

8. **Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:** We may release protected health information to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give protected health information to someone who helps pay for your care. We may disclose protected health information about you to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.

9. **Research:** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose your protected health information for research purposes or, to determine whether you might benefit from, or be willing to be involved in certain research.

*Examples:*
- A research project may involve comparing the health and recovery of all patients with high blood pressure who received one blood pressure medication to those who received another type of blood pressure medication to determine which type is most effective.
- We may disclose your protected health information to people preparing to conduct a research project so long as the protected health information they review does not leave the office.

Most research only uses medical information without using your name, address or other information that reveals who you are. We will almost always ask for your specific permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are or if your medical information will leave the office.

**CAN YOU EVER USE OR DISCLOSE MY PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION WITHOUT MY CONSENT?**
Yes. The following categories describe ways we may use or disclose your protected health information without your consent. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed.

1. **Required by Law:** We will disclose your protected health information when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

*Example:*
- Oklahoma law requires us to report all communicable or venereal diseases which are identified or diagnosed in our office to the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

2. **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose your protected health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. This disclosure would only be made to someone able to help prevent the threat.

3. **Organ and Tissue Donations:** If you are an organ donor, we may release your protected health information to organizations that handle organ procurement for organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.

4. **Military:** If you are a member of the Armed Forces, we may release your protected health information as required by military command authorities. We may also release protected health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

5. **Workers Compensation:** We may release your protected health information for workers compensation or similar programs as authorized by State laws. The programs provide benefits for work related injuries or illness.
You have the following rights regarding your protected health information that we maintain about you. You are required to submit a written request to exercise any of these rights for records we create and maintain.

1. Right to Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and request a copy of your protected health information, except as prohibited by law. If you request a copy of your protected health information, we may charge 25 cents per page. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain circumstances, such as a request for mental health records. If you are denied access to certain protected health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. A licensed health care professional chosen by us will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

2. Right to Amend: If you feel that the protected health information created by us is incomplete or incorrect, you may request an amendment for as long as we maintain the information. You must provide a reason that supports your amendment request. If your request is not in writing or does not include a reason to support your request for amendment, we may deny your request for amendment. We may also deny your request for amendment if you ask us to amend information that:
   - Was not created, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment.
   - Is not part of the protected health information maintained by us.
   - Is not accurate and complete.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS REGARDING MY PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION?
3. Right to an Accounting of Disclosure: You have the right to request one free ‘accounting of disclosures’ every 12 months. This accounting does not include disclosures made for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than 6 years or include dates before April 14, 2003. For additional accountings, we may charge you for the costs of providing the accounting. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any charges are incurred.

4. Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the protected health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You also have the right to request or limit the protected health information we disclose about you to a family member or friend.

Example:
- You ask us not to use or disclose information about your surgery.

   *We are not required to agree with your request.* If we do not agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment or the use or disclosure is required by law.

Your request must include:
- What information you want restricted.
- The type of restriction you want, and
- To whom you want the restriction to apply.

5. Right to Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your protected health information in a certain way or certain location.

Examples:
- You request we only contact you via mail or at your work phone number.

We will not ask you the reason for the request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

6. Right to a Paper Copy of this Notice: You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. To obtain a paper copy, contact our Privacy Officer.

CAN YOU CHANGE THIS NOTICE?

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for your protected health information we already have about you as well as for any protected health information we receive in the future. Each notice will have an effective date. Copies of the current notice will be posted. Additionally, at each visit for treatment or health care services, we will make available to you a copy of the current notice.

WHAT IF YOU WANT TO USE OR DISCLOSE MY PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION FOR A PURPOSE NOT DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE?

Other uses and disclosures not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will only be made with your written authorization. In other words, the consent you already provided us will not be enough to use or disclose your protected health information for any purpose not described in this notice. If you provide us authorization to use or disclose your protected health information, you may revoke that authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your protected health information for the reasons covered by your authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any uses or disclosures we have already made with your authorization.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO REPORT A PROBLEM?

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint with us or the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

To file a complaint with us, contact our Privacy Officer at:

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