

HIPAA PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE NOTICE

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.

Federal Law (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)) requires that health care providers inform patients of their rights regarding how the provider may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. This Privacy Notice describes our privacy practices that relate to your protected health information. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information in some cases. Your “protected health information” means any written and oral health information about you, including demographic data that can be used to identify you. This is health information that is created or received by your health care provider, and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition.

YOUR HEALTH RECORD AND PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION :

Each time you receive medical care from our practice, a record of your visit is created. This record typically includes, but is not limited to, information such as your name, age, address, a brief medical history, symptoms, any test results, the treatment provided to you, treatment plans devised for your care, and notes on follow-up care to be performed. How your health care information may be used and what control you may exercise over the use of your healthcare information is described in this Privacy Notice.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION :

Our Practice may use your protected health information for purposes of providing treatment, obtaining payment for treatment, and conducting health care operations. Your protected health information may be used or disclosed only for these purposes unless the practice has obtained your authorization or the use or disclosure is otherwise permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations or state law. Disclosures of your protected health information for the purposes described in this Privacy Notice may be made in writing, orally, or by facsimile.

Treatment: Your health information may be used by staff members or disclosed to other health care professionals for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing medical conditions, and providing treatment. For example, results of laboratory tests and procedures will be available in your medical record to all health professionals who may provide treatment or who may be consulted by staff members.

Payment: Your protected health information may be used to seek payment from your health plan, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies that you may use to pay for services. For example, your health plan may request and receive information on dates of service, the services provided, and the medical condition being treated.

Health Care Operation: your health information may be used as necessary to support the day-to-day activities and management of IPA PHYSIO. For example, information on the services you received may be used to support budgeting and financial reporting, and activities to evaluate and promote quality. Other examples might include: employee review activities, training programs including those in which students, trainees, or practitioners in health care learn under supervision, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities, review and auditing, including compliance reviews, medical reviews, legal services and maintaining compliance

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programs, and business management and general administrative activities. In certain situations, we may also disclose patient information to another provider or health plan for their health care operations.

Law enforcement: Your health information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting.

Public health reporting: Your health information may be disclosed to public health agencies as required by law. For example, we are required to report certain communicable diseases to the state's public health department.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

Appointment Reminders: Your health information may be used to contact you, a family member or friend involved in your health care as authorized by you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or medical care at our facility. We may also leave a message on your answering machine / voicemail system unless you tell us not to.

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

Health Related Benefits and Services: We may use or disclose your protected health information to tell you about health related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment of Your Care: We may disclose your protected health information to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone assisting you in the payment for your care. We may also tell your family or friends that you are in the facility at the time of your care. If you want any of this information restricted you must communicate that to us using the appropriate procedure.

Worker's Compensation: The facility may release your health information to comply with worker's compensation laws or similar programs.

You may object to these disclosures. If you do not object to these disclosures or we can infer from the circumstances that you do not object or we determine, in the exercise of our professional judgment, that it is in your best interests for us to make disclosure of information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your care, we may disclose your protected health information as described.

Uses and Disclosures which you authorize: Other than as stated above, we will not disclose your health information other than with your written authorization. You may revoke your authorization in writing at any time except to the extent that we have taken action in reliance upon the authorization.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Although your health record is the physical property of the healthcare practitioner or Facility that compiled it, the information belongs to you. You have certain rights under the federal privacy standards. These include:

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- The right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your protected health information
- The right to receive confidential communications concerning your medical condition and treatment
- The right to inspect and copy your protected health information
- The right to amend or submit corrections to your protected health information
- The right to receive an accounting of how and to whom your protected health information has been disclosed
- The right to receive a printed copy of this notice

Please contact our HIPAA Privacy Officer if you have questions about access to your medical record.

IPA PHYSIO DUTIES

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide you with this notice of privacy practices. We also are required to abide by the privacy policies and practices that are outlined in this notice.

RIGHT TO REVISE PRIVACY PRACTICES

As permitted by law, we reserve the right to amend or modify our privacy policies and practices. These changes in our policies and practices may be required by changes in federal and state laws and regulations. Upon request, we will provide you with the most recently revised notice on any office visit. The revised policies and practices will be applied to all protected health information we maintain.

REQUESTS TO INSPECT PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

You may generally inspect or copy the protected health information that we maintain. As permitted by federal regulation, we require that requests to inspect or copy protected health information be submitted in writing. You may obtain a form to request access to your records by contacting Joseph Grant. Your request will be reviewed and will generally be approved unless there are legal or medical reasons to deny the request.

COMPLAINTS

We encourage you to express any concerns you may have regarding the privacy of your information. If you would like to submit a comment or complaint about our privacy practices, you can do so by sending a letter outlining your concerns to:

Gregory S. Johnson
PT, FAAOMPT

Johnson & Johnson Physical Therapy
An IPA Physio Clinic
1880 Loggers Lane, Unit C
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487
(970) 879-4558

You also have the right to express complaints to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe that your privacy rights have been violated.

You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint.