

Notice of Privacy Practices

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU: The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose medical information. For each category of uses or disclosures, we will elaborate on the meaning and provide more specific examples, if you request. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories. We must obtain your authorization before the use and disclosure of any psychotherapy notes, uses and disclosures of PHI for marketing purposes, and disclosures that constitute a sale of PHI. Uses and disclosures not described in this Notice of Privacy Practices will be made only with authorization from the individual.

For Payment: We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at Smart Start Pediatrics (hereafter "SSP") may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company, or a third party. For example: we may disclose your record to an insurance company, so that we can get paid for treating you.

For Treatment: We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you at SSP or the hospital. For example, we may disclose medical information about you to people outside SSP who may be involved in your medical care, such as family members, clergy, or other persons that are part of your care.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose medical information about you for health care operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run SSP and ensure that all our patients receive quality care. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, and other SSP personnel for review and learning purposes. For example, we may review your record to assist our quality improvement efforts.

WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE: This notice describes SSP's policies and procedures and that of any health care professional authorized to enter information into your medical chart, any member of a volunteer group which we allow to help you, as well as all employees, staff, and other SSP personnel.

POLICY REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION: We create a record of the care and services you receive at SSP. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all the records of your care generated by SSP, whether made by SSP personnel or by your personal doctor. The law requires us to: make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private; give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you; and to follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect. Other ways we may use or disclose your protected healthcare information include: appointment reminders; as required by law; for health-related benefits and services; to individuals involved in your care or payment for your care; research; to avert a serious threat to health or safety; and for treatment alternatives. Other uses and disclosures of your personal information could include disclosure to, or for: coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors; health oversight activities; law enforcement; lawsuits and disputes; military and veterans; national security and intelligence activities; organ and tissue donation; public health risks; and worker's compensation.

NOTICE OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

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.

Right to Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. A request form may be obtained at the front desk. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances.

Right to Amend: If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by, or for, SSP. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the Privacy Officer and you must provide a reason that supports your request. A request form may be obtained at the front desk. We may deny your request for an amendment.

Right to Request Removal from Fundraising Communications: You have the right to opt out of receiving fundraising communications from the Practice.

Right to Restrict Disclosures to Health Plan: You have the right to restrict disclosures of PHI to a health plan if the disclosure is for payment of health care operations and pertains to a health care item or service for which you have paid out of pocket in full.

Right to Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. You must make your request in writing and you must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. A request form may be obtained at the front desk.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures: You have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures." This is a list of the disclosures we made of medical information about you. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. A request form may be obtained at the front desk.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE: We reserve the right to change this notice. A current copy will be available at the front desk.

COMPLAINTS: If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with SSP or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with SSP, contact LaShea Dalton, (256) 891-0300, 460 AL Hwy 75 N, Albertville, AL 35951-3838. All complaints must be submitted in writing. A complaint form is available upon request. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

OTHER USES OF MEDICAL INFORMATION: Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to use will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time.