

Pediatric Associates of Mt Carmel
Established 1972

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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

As Required by the Privacy Regulations Created as a Result of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

Effective April 13, 2003

Updated May 19, 2026

A. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

Our practice is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your individually identifiable health information (IIHI). In conducting our business, we will create records regarding you and the treatment and services we provide to you. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of health information that identifies you. We are also required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and the privacy practices that we maintain in our practice concerning your IIHI. By federal and state law, we must follow the terms of the notice of privacy practices that we have in effect at the time.

We realize that these laws are complicated, but we must provide you with the following important information:

- How we may use and disclose your IIHI
- Your privacy rights in your IIHI
- Our obligations concerning the use and disclosure of your IIHI

The terms of this notice apply to all records containing your IIHI that are created or retained by our practice. We reserve the right to revise or amend this Notice of Privacy Practices. Any revision or amendment to this notice will be effective for all of your records that our practice has created or maintained in the past, and for any of your records that we may create or maintain in the future. Our practice will post a copy of our current Notice in our offices in a visible location at all times, and you may request a copy of our most current Notice at any time.

B. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650.

C. WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR IIHI IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

The following categories describe the different ways in which we may use and disclose your IIHI:

1. **Treatment.** Our practice may use your IIHI to treat you. For example, we may ask you to have laboratory tests (such as blood or urine tests), and we may use the results to help us reach a diagnosis. We might use your IIHI in order to write a prescription for you, or we might disclose your IIHI to a pharmacy when we order a prescription for you. Many of the people who work for our practice – including, but not limited to, our doctors and nurses – may use or disclose your IIHI in order to treat you or to assist others in your treatment. Additionally, we may disclose your IIHI to others who may assist in your care, such as your spouse, children, or parents. Finally, we may also disclose your IIHI to other health care providers for purposes related to your treatment.

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2. **Payment.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI in order to bill and collect payment for the services and items you may receive from us. For example, we may contact your health insurer to certify that you are eligible for benefits (and for what range of benefits), and we may provide your insurer with details regarding your treatment to determine if your insurer will cover, or pay for, your treatment. We also may use and disclose your IIHI to obtain payment from third parties that may be responsible for such costs, such as family members. We may disclose your IIHI to other health care providers and entities to assist in their billing and collection efforts.
3. **Health Care Operations.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI to operate our business. As examples of the ways in which we may use and disclose your information for our operations, our practice may use your IIHI to evaluate the quality of care you received from us, or to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for our practice. We may disclose your IIHI to other health care providers and entities to assist in their health care operations.
4. **Single Consent for Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations (TPO), Including Substance Use Disorder Records.**
5. Federal law permits patients to provide a single written consent allowing the use and disclosure of their protected health information, including substance use disorder (SUD) records protected under 42 CFR Part 2, for purposes of Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations. By signing such a consent, you authorize our practice to use and disclose both standard health information and SUD records for these purposes. This consent does not permit the use or disclosure of SUD records for civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings without your written consent or a court order, as required by law.
6. **Appointment Reminders.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI to contact you and remind you of an appointment.
7. **Treatment Options.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI to inform you of potential treatment options or alternatives.
8. **Health-Related Benefits and Services.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI to inform you of health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.
9. **Release of Information to Family/Friends.** Our practice may release your IIHI to a friend or family member that is involved in your care, or who assists in taking care of you. For example, a parent or guardian may ask that a babysitter take their child to the pediatrician's office for treatment of a cold. In this example, the babysitter may have access to this child's medical information.
10. **Health Information Exchange.** Our practice uses one or more Health Information Exchanges and discloses your IIHI through a secure electronic network. We and other healthcare providers may allow access to your IIHI through the Health Information Exchange for treatment, payment, and other healthcare operations. This is a voluntary agreement; you may opt-out at any time by notifying the Practice Manager in writing.
11. **Artificial Intelligence-Assisted Documentation.** Our practice uses artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted ambient documentation technology for visits to help our providers create accurate and complete clinical records. When this technology is used during your visit, audio from the encounter is captured and processed to generate a draft clinical note. Your provider reviews, edits as necessary, and approves the draft note before it is saved into your medical record. The audio recording and any draft materials generated during this process are not part of your permanent medical record and are not retained beyond the period necessary to support your provider's review and attestation of the final note.

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You will be asked if we have your consent to utilize technology during your visit. You may decline its use at any time without it affecting your care at PAMC in any way. Any vendor providing AI documentation services on our behalf has entered into a Business Associate Agreement with PAMC and is required to maintain the same security and privacy standards as our electronic health record system. If you have questions about our use of AI-assisted documentation, please contact our Privacy Officer, Jasmine Sandhu, at (513) 752-3650.

12. Disclosures Required By Law. Our practice will use and disclose your IIHI when we are required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

13. Reproductive Health Care Privacy. In compliance with recent amendments to the HIPAA Privacy Rule Final Rule, our practice will not use or disclose an individual's reproductive Protected Health Information (PHI) for the purpose of conducting a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation into or imposing criminal, civil, or administrative liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care that is lawful under the circumstances in which it is provided. Examples of reproductive healthcare include, but are not limited to, contraception, counseling, and pregnancy testing.

- **Require Signed Attestation:** When we receive a request for your information potentially related to reproductive health care, we must obtain a signed attestation from the requester that the use or disclosure is not for a prohibited purpose when the request relates to health oversight activities, judicial and administrative proceedings, law enforcement purposes, and disclosures to coroners and medical examiners.

11. Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Records. Our practice may create or maintain records related to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in accordance with federal law (42 CFR Part 2). Federal law protects the confidentiality of these records. SUD records cannot be used or disclosed in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against a patient without the patient's written consent or a court order.

We will obtain a written authorization from the patient (or parent/guardian, if applicable) for any disclosure of SUD records that is not otherwise permitted by law. Patients (or their parent/guardian) have the right to request restrictions on the use or disclosure of SUD records and to receive an accounting of certain disclosures.

Redisclosure Notice: Once disclosed, SUD records may not be further disclosed except as permitted by federal law (42 CFR Part 2). If you have questions about the use or disclosure of SUD records, please contact our Privacy Officer, Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650.

D. USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR IIHI IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The disclosures described in this section may not apply to substance use disorder (SUD) records protected under 42 CFR Part 2 unless the applicable legal requirements are met. SUD records will not be used or disclosed for civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings without the patient's written consent or a court order, as required by federal law.

1. Public Health Risks. Our practice may disclose your IIHI to public health authorities that are authorized by law to collect information for the purpose of:

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- maintaining vital records, such as births and deaths
- reporting child abuse or neglect
- preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability
- notifying a person regarding potential exposure to a communicable disease
- notifying a person regarding a potential risk for spreading or contracting a disease or condition
- reporting reactions to drugs or problems with products or devices
- notifying individuals if a product or device they may be using has been recalled
- notifying appropriate government agency(ies) and authority(ies) regarding the potential abuse or neglect of an adult patient (including domestic violence); however, we will only disclose this information if the patient agrees or we are required or authorized by law to disclose this information
- notifying your employer under limited circumstances related primarily to workplace injury or illness or medical surveillance.

2. Health Oversight Activities. Our practice may disclose your IIHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Oversight activities can include, for example, investigations, inspections, audits, surveys, licensure and disciplinary actions; civil, administrative, and criminal procedures or actions; or other activities necessary for the government to monitor government programs, compliance with civil rights laws and the health care system in general.

3. Lawsuits and Similar Proceedings. Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI in response to a court or administrative order, if you are involved in a lawsuit or similar proceeding. We also may disclose your IIHI in response to a discovery request, subpoena, or other lawful process by another party involved in the dispute, but only if we have made an effort to inform you of the request or to obtain an order protecting the information the party has requested.

4. Law Enforcement. We may release IIHI if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- Regarding a crime victim in certain situations, if we are unable to obtain the person's agreement
- Concerning a death we believe has resulted from criminal conduct
- Regarding criminal conduct at our offices
- In response to a warrant, summons, court order, subpoena or similar legal process
- To identify/locate a suspect, material witness, fugitive or missing person
- In an emergency, to report a crime (including the location or victim(s) of the crime, or the description, identity or location of the perpetrator)

5. Deceased Patients. Our practice may release IIHI to a medical examiner or coroner to identify a deceased individual or to identify the cause of death. If necessary, we also may release information in order for funeral directors to perform their jobs.

6. Organ and Tissue Donation. Our practice may release your IIHI to organizations that handle organ, eye or tissue procurement or transplantation, including organ donation banks, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation if you are an organ donor.

7. Research. Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI for research purposes in certain limited circumstances. We will obtain your written authorization to use your IIHI for research purposes except when an Internal Review Board or Privacy Board has determined that the waiver of your authorization satisfies the

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following: (i) the use or disclosure involves no more than a minimal risk to your privacy based on the following: (A) an adequate plan to protect the identifiers from improper use and disclosure; (B) an adequate plan to destroy the identifiers at the earliest opportunity consistent with the research (unless there is a health or research justification for retaining the identifiers or such retention is otherwise required by law); and (C) adequate written assurances that the PHI will not be re-used or disclosed to any other person or entity (except as required by law) for authorized oversight of the research study, or for other research for which the use or disclosure would otherwise be permitted; (ii) the research could not practicably be conducted without the waiver; and (iii) the research could not practicably be conducted without access to and use of the PHI.

8. Serious Threats to Health or Safety. Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI when necessary to reduce or prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another individual or the public. Under these circumstances, we will only make disclosures to a person or organization able to help prevent the threat.

9. Military. Our practice may disclose your IIHI if you are a member of U.S. or foreign military forces (including veterans) and if required by the appropriate authorities.

10. National Security. Our practice may disclose your IIHI to federal officials for intelligence and national security activities authorized by law. We also may disclose your IIHI to federal officials in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state, or to conduct investigations.

11. Inmates. Our practice may disclose your IIHI to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials if you are an inmate or under the custody of a law enforcement official. Disclosure for these purposes would be necessary: (a) for the institution to provide health care services to you, (b) for the safety and security of the institution, and/or (c) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals.

12. Workers' Compensation. Our practice may release your IIHI for workers' compensation and similar programs.

E. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR IIHI

You have the following rights regarding the IIHI that we maintain about you:

1. Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that our practice communicate with you about your health and related issues in a particular manner or at a certain location. For instance, you may ask that we contact you at home, rather than work. In order to request a type of confidential communication, you must make a written request to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650 specifying the requested method of contact, or the location where you wish to be contacted. Our practice will accommodate reasonable requests. You do not need to give a reason for your request.

2. Requesting Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your IIHI for treatment, payment or health care operations. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your IIHI to only certain individuals involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as family members and friends. We are not required to agree to your request; however, if we do agree, we are bound by our agreement except when otherwise required by law, in emergencies, or when the information is necessary to treat you. In order to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your IIHI, you must make your request in writing to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650. Your request must describe in a clear and concise fashion:

(a) the information you wish restricted;

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- (b) whether you are requesting to limit our practice's use, disclosure or both; and
- (c) to whom you want the limits to apply.

3. Inspection and Copies. You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of the IIHI that may be used to make decisions about you, including patient medical records and billing records, but not including psychotherapy notes. You must submit your request in writing to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650 in order to inspect and/or obtain a copy of your IIHI. Our practice may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, labor and supplies associated with your request. Our practice may deny your request to inspect and/or copy in certain limited circumstances; however, you may request a review of our denial. Another licensed health care professional chosen by us will conduct reviews.

4. Amendment. You may ask us to amend your health information if you believe it is incorrect or incomplete, and you may request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our practice. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650. You must provide us with a reason that supports your request for amendment. Our practice will deny your request if you fail to submit your request (and the reason supporting your request) in writing. Also, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that is in our opinion: (a) accurate and complete; (b) not part of the IIHI kept by or for the practice; (c) not part of the IIHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or (d) not created by our practice, unless the individual or entity that created the information is not available to amend the information.

5. Accounting of Disclosures. All of our patients have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures." An "accounting of disclosures" is a list of certain non-routine disclosures our practice has made of your IIHI for non-treatment, non-payment or non-operations purposes. Use of your IIHI as part of the routine patient care in our practice is not required to be documented. For example, the doctor sharing information with the nurse; or the billing department using your information to file your insurance claim. In order to obtain an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650. All requests for an "accounting of disclosures" must state a time period, which may not be longer than six (6) years from the date of disclosure and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first list you request within a 12-month period is free of charge, but our practice may charge you for additional lists within the same 12-month period. Our practice will notify you of the costs involved with additional requests, and you may withdraw your request before you incur any costs. This right to receive an accounting of disclosures includes certain disclosures of substance use disorder (SUD) records made in accordance with applicable federal law.

6. Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You are entitled to receive a paper copy of our notice of privacy practices. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650.

7. Right to File a Complaint. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our practice, contact Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager at 752-3650. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

8. Right to Provide an Authorization for Other Uses and Disclosures. Our practice will obtain your written authorization for uses and disclosures that are not identified by this notice or permitted by applicable law. Any authorization you provide to us regarding the use and disclosure of your IIHI may be revoked at any time in writing. After you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your IIHI for the reasons described in the authorization. Please note, we are required to retain records of your care. This right includes the ability to revoke

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your consent for the use or disclosure of substance use disorder (SUD) records protected under 42 CFR Part 2. Any revocation must be made in writing and will apply only to future uses and disclosures. Revocation does not affect any disclosures that were made prior to the revocation or any uses or disclosures otherwise permitted by law.

These rights include restrictions on the use or disclosure of substance use disorder records, in addition to the general HIPAA protections described above.

F. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Authorization for Reproductive Health Information: For any disclosures of reproductive health care information that are not required or permitted by this notice or applicable law, we will obtain your written authorization. You may revoke this authorization in writing at any time by submitting your request to Jasmine Sandhu, Practice Manager. After revocation, we will no longer use or disclose your reproductive health care information for the reasons described in the authorization.

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