

# Helping Hands Pediatrics HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

Effective date of this notice – Updated 6/1/18

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION AS A PATIENT MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

The privacy of your child's medical information is important to us. You may be aware the U.S. government regulators established a privacy rule, the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act ("HIPAA") governing protected health information ("PHI"). PHI is information that identifies you and relates to health care services, the payment of health care services or your physical or mental health or condition, in the past, present or future. This notice describes your rights to access and control your child's PHI.

## **Our Responsibilities**

Federal law requires that we maintain the privacy of your child's PHI and provide to you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices. We are required to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured PHI. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice, which may be amended from time to time. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the new Notice provisions effective for all PHI that we maintain. We will promptly revise and distribute this Notice whenever there is a material change to the uses or disclosures, your rights, our duties, or other practices stated in this Notice. Except when required by law, a material change to this notice will not be implemented before the effective date of the new notice in which the material change is reflected.

## **Uses and Disclosures of PHI for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations**

- Federal law provides that we may use your child's PHI **for your treatment**, without further specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example, we may provide laboratory or test data to a specialist involved with your child's care.
- Federal law provides that we may use your child's medical information to **obtain payment** for our services without further specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example, under a health plan, we are required to provide the health insurance company with a diagnosis code for your child's visit and a description of the services rendered.
- Federal law provides that we may use your child's medical information for **health care operations** without further specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example, we may use the information to evaluate the quality of care your child received from us, or to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for our practice.

## **Uses and Disclosures of PHI for Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives, or Fundraising Activities**

- We may use and disclose your child's PHI to contact you as a reminder that your child has an appointment for a home visit. We may use and disclose your child's PHI to advise you or recommend possible service options or alternatives that may be of interest to you. We may contact you for fundraising activities. However, you will be provided the opportunity to opt out of receiving such fundraising communications.

## **Disclosures You May Authorize Us to Make**

- We will not disclose your child's PHI without authorization, except as described in this Notice. Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes, as applicable, require your authorization. Subject to certain limited exceptions, we may not use or disclose PHI for marketing without your authorization. We may not sell PHI without your authorization. You may give us written authorization to use and/or disclose health information to anyone for any purpose. If you authorize us to use or disclose such information, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time.

## **Health Information Exchanges.**

- We may participate in one or more health information exchanges (HIEs) and may electronically share your child's health information for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations purposes with other participants in the HIEs. HIEs allow your health care providers to efficiently access and use your child's pertinent medical information necessary for treatment and other lawful purposes. Depending on State law requirements, you may be asked to "opt-in" in order to share your child's information with HIEs, or you may be provided with the opportunity to "opt-out" of HIE participation. If you opt-in to the HIE (or do not opt-out depending upon state law requirements), we may provide your child's health information to the HIEs in which we participate in accordance with applicable law. Patients who opt-in will be required to provide written authorization and may revoke their authorization at any time.

## **Other Specific Uses or Disclosures**

**When Legally Required.** We will disclose your child's PHI when required by any Federal, State or local law.

**In the Event of a Serious Threat to Life, Health or Safety.** We may, consistent with applicable law and ethical standards of conduct, disclose your child's PHI if we, in good faith, believe that such disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your life, health, or safety, or to the health and safety of the public.

**When There Are Risks to Public Health.** We may disclose your child's PHI for public activities and purposes allowed by law in order to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; report disease, injury, and vital events such as birth or death; conduct public health surveillance, investigations, and interventions; or notify a person who has been exposed to a communicable disease or who may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease.

**To Report Abuse, Neglect Or Domestic Violence.** We may notify government authorities if we believe a child is the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will make this disclosure only when required or authorized by law, or when the child's personal representative agrees to the disclosure.

**To Conduct Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose your child's PHI to a health oversight agency for activities including audits, civil administrative or criminal investigations, inspections, licensure or disciplinary action. However, we may not disclose your child's PHI if you are the subject of an investigation and your child's PHI is not directly related to your receipt of health care or public benefits.

**In Connection With Judicial and Administrative Proceedings.** We may disclose your child's PHI in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal as expressly authorized by such order, or, in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process, if we determine that reasonable efforts have been made by the party seeking the information to either notify you about the request or to secure a qualified protective order the release of any confidential medical information.

**For Law Enforcement** regarding your health information. Under Ohio law, some requests may require a court order. As permitted or required by law, we may disclose specific and limited PHI about you for certain law enforcement purposes.

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**For Research Purposes.** We may, under very select circumstances, use your PHI for research. Before we disclose any of your child's PHI for such research purposes in a way that you could be identified, the project will be subject to an extensive review and approval process, unless otherwise prohibited as with Medicaid.

**For Specified Government Functions.** Federal regulations may require or authorize us to use or disclose your child's PHI to facilitate specified government functions relating to military and veterans; national security and intelligence activities; protective services for the President and others; medical suitability determinations; and inmates and law enforcement custody.

**For Workers' Compensation.** We may use or disclose your child's PHI for workers' compensation or similar programs.

**Transfer of Information at Death.** In certain circumstances, we may disclose your child's PHI to funeral directors, medical examiners, and coroners to carry out their duties consistent with applicable law.

**Organ Procurement Organizations.** Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose your child's PHI to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purposes of tissue donation and transplant.

### Minors

- For divorced or separated parents: each parent has equal access to health information about their un-emancipated child(ren), unless there is a court order to the contrary that is known to us or unless it is a type of treatment or service where parental rights are restricted.

### Your Rights with Respect to PHI

You have the following rights regarding PHI that we maintain:

**Right to Request Restrictions.** You may request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your child's health information. You have the right to request a limit on our disclosure of your child's PHI to someone who is involved in your child's care or the payment of your child's care. Although we will consider your request, please be aware that we are under no obligation to accept it or to abide by it unless the request concerns a disclosure of PHI to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations, and the PHI pertains solely to a health care service for which the provider has been paid out of pocket in full. To request such restrictions, please contact Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**.

**Right to Receive Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a confidential manner. For example, you may ask us to conduct communications pertaining to your child's health information only with you privately, with no other family members present. If you wish to receive confidential communications, please contact Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**. We may not require that you provide an explanation for your request and will attempt to honor any reasonable requests.

**Right to Inspect and Copy Your PHI.** Unless your access to your child's records is restricted for clear and documented treatment reasons, you have a right to see your child's PHI upon request. You have the right to inspect and copy such health information, including billing records, at a reasonable time and place. A request to inspect and copy records containing your child's PHI may be made to Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**. If you request a copy of such health information, we may charge reasonable copying, processing, and personnel fees. If the PHI that is the subject of a request is maintained in one or more designated record sets electronically and if you request an electronic copy of such information, we will provide you with access to the PHI in the electronic form and format requested if readily producible in such form and format; or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format as agreed upon by us and you.

**Right to Amend Your PHI.** You have the right to request that we amend your child's records, if you believe that your PHI is incorrect or incomplete. That request may be made as long as we maintain the information. A request for an amendment of records must be made in writing to Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**. We may deny the request if it is not in writing, or does not include a reason for the amendment. The request also may be denied if your child's health information records were not created by us, if the records you are requesting are not part of our records, if the health information you wish to amend is not part of the health information you are permitted to inspect and copy, or if, in our opinion, the records containing your child's health information are accurate and complete. We take the position that amendments may take the form of including a written statement from you and may not include changing, defacing or destroying any necessary information related to your child's health care.

**Right to Know What Disclosures Have Been Made.** You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures of your child's PHI made by us for certain reasons, including reasons related to public purposes authorized by law, and certain research. The request for an accounting must be made in writing to Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**. The request must specify the time period for the accounting, and may not be made for periods of time in excess of six (6) years prior to the date on which the accounting is requested. We will provide the first accounting you request during any 12-month period without charge. Subsequent accounting requests may be subject to a reasonable, cost-based fee.

**Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** You have a right to receive paper copy of this Notice at any time, even if you have received this Notice previously. To obtain a paper copy, please contact Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**.

### Where to File a Complaint

You have the right to complain to us if you believe that your child's privacy rights have been violated, including the denial of any rights set forth in this Notice. Any complaints to us shall be made in writing to Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**. We encourage you to express any concerns you may have regarding the privacy of your child's information. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint.

You may also file a written complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C., 20201 or call toll-free (877) 696-6775, by e-mail to [OCRComplaint@hhs.gov](mailto:OCRComplaint@hhs.gov), or to Region V, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 240, Chicago, Ill, 60601, Voice Phone (312) 886-2359, FAX (312) 886-1807, or TDD (312) 353-5693.

### Contact Persons

We have designated the Privacy Official as our contact point for all issues regarding consumer privacy and your rights under this Notice. If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Clinical Leadership at **Helping Hands Pediatrics, 5030 N. Walnut St., South Bloomfield, OH 43130; (740) 983-0015**.

### Effective Date

This Notice is effective June 1st, 2018.