

*Avalon Park Internal Medicine*

**HIPAA NOTICE OF PATIENT PRIVACY PRACTICES**

*Effective Date: November 10, 2011*

**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.**

Avalon Park Internal Medicine is a facility affiliated with Adventist Health System (AHS). Except for state law changes and personalizing this Notice for each AHS facility, all AHS facilities generally follow this same Notice. This Notice applies to all of the health records that identify you and the care you receive at AHS facilities.

If you are under 18 years of age, your parents or guardian must sign for you and handle your privacy rights for you.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Pam Clark, Administrator, 2501 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32804

***Section A: Who Will Follow This Notice?***

This notice describes Florida Hospital Medical Group practices and that of: Avalon Park Internal Medicine.

- Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your medical chart.
- All departments and units of Floridas Hospital Medical Group.
- Any member of a volunteer group we allow to help you while you are in Florida Hospital Medical Group.
- All employees, staff and other personnel of Florida Hospital Medical Group.
- *Floria Hospital – All departments.* All these entities, sites and locations follow the terms of this notice. In addition, these entities, sites and locations may share medical information with each other for treatment, payment or hospital operations purposes described in this notice. This list may not reflect recent acquisitions or sales of entities, sites, or locations.

***Section B: Our Pledge Regarding Medical Information.***

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. We are committed to protecting medical information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive at the hospital. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated or maintained by Florida Hospital Medical Group, whether made by Florida Hospital Medical Group personnel or your personal doctor. Your personal doctor may have different policies or notices regarding the doctor's use and disclosure of your medical information created in the doctor's office or clinic.

This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

We are required by law to:

- ◆ Use our best efforts to keep medical information that identifies you private;
- ◆ Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you; and
- ◆ Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

***Section C: How We May Use and Disclose Medical Information About You.***

We may share your medical information in any format we determine is appropriate to efficiently coordinate the treatment, payment, and health care operation aspects of your care. For example, we may share your information orally, via fax, on paper, or through electronic exchange.

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose medical information. For each category of uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

- **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 Florida Hospital Medical Group personnel who are involved in taking care of you at the hospital. For example, a doctor treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. In addition, the doctor may need to tell the dietitian if you have diabetes so that we can arrange for appropriate meals. Different departments of Florida Hospital Medical Group also may share medical information about you in order to coordinate the different things you need, such as prescriptions, lab work and x-rays. We also may disclose medical information about you to people outside Florida Hospital Medical Group who may be involved in your medical care

after you leave Florida Hospital Medical Group, such as family members, clergy or others we use to provide services that are part of your care.

- **Payment.** We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at Florida Hospital Medical Group may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about surgery you received at Florida Hospital Medical Group so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the surgery. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.
- **Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose medical information about you for Florida Hospital Medical Group's operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run Florida Hospital Medical Group and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use medical information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may give out your medical information to our business associates that help us with our administrative and other functions. These business associates may re-disclose your medical information as necessary for our health care operations functions. We may also combine medical information about many patients to decide what additional services Florida Hospital Medical Group should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, and other Florida Hospital Medical Group personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the medical information we have with medical information from other entities to compare how we are doing and see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without learning who the specific patients are.
- **Appointment Reminders.** We may use and disclose medical information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or medical care at Florida Hospital Medical Group.
- **Treatment Alternatives.** We may use and disclose medical 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 and disclose medical information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.
- **Fundraising Activities.** We may use information about you to contact you in an effort to raise money for Florida Hospital Medical Group and its operations. We may disclose information to a foundation related to Florida Hospital Medical Group so that the foundation may contact you to raise money for Florida Hospital Medical Group. We would release only contact information, such as your name, address,

phone number, gender, age, insurance status, and the dates you received treatment or services at Florida Hospital Medical Group. If you do not want Florida Hospital Medical Group to contact you for fundraising efforts, you must notify us in writing.

- **Patient Directory.** We may include certain limited information about you in Florida Hospital Medical Group's patient directory while you are a patient at Florida Hospital Medical Group. This information may include your name, location in Florida Hospital Medical Group, your general condition (e.g., fair, stable, etc.) and your religious affiliation. The directory information, except for your religious affiliation, may also be released to people who ask for you by name. Your religious affiliation may be given to a member of the clergy, such as a priest or rabbi, even if they don't ask for you by name. This is so your family, friends and clergy can visit you in Florida Hospital Medical Group and generally know how you are doing.
- **Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** We may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. We may also tell your family or friends your condition and that you are in Florida Hospital Medical Group. In addition, we may disclose medical 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.
- **Research.** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose medical information about you for research purposes. For example, a research project may involve comparing the health and recovery of all patients who received one medication to those who received another, for the same condition. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of medical information, trying to balance the research needs with patients' need for privacy of their medical information. Before we use or disclose medical information for research, the project will have been approved through this research approval process, but we may, however, disclose medical information about you to people preparing to conduct a research project, for example, to help them look for patients with specific medical needs, so long as the medical information they review does not leave the hospital. We will generally ask for your specific permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are, or will be involved in your care at Florida Hospital Medical Group.
- **As Required By Law.** We will disclose medical information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.
- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose medical information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

<b><i>Section D: Special Situations</i></b>
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- **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may release medical information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.
- **Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release medical information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- **Workers' Compensation.** We may release medical information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- **Public Health Risks.** We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:
  - ◆ To prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
  - ◆ To report births and deaths;
  - ◆ To report child abuse or neglect;
  - ◆ To report reactions to medications or problems with products;
  - ◆ To notify people of recalls of products they may be using;
  - ◆ To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition;
  - ◆ To notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.
- **Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.
- **Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you or we are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose medical information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose medical information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.
- **Law Enforcement.** We may release medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:
  - ◆ In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
  - ◆ To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person;

- ◆ About the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement;
  - ◆ About a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
  - ◆ About criminal conduct at Florida Hospital Medical Group; and
  - ◆ In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.
- **Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may release medical information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release medical information about patients of Florida Hospital Medical Group to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.
- **National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may release medical information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.
- **Protective Services for the President and Others.** We may disclose medical information about you to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons or foreign heads of state or conduct special investigations.
- **Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

### ***Section E: Your Rights Regarding Medical Information About You***

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

- **Right to Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy some of the medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes medical and billing records, but does not include psychotherapy notes. When your medical information is contained in an electronic health record, as that term is defined in federal laws and rules, you have the right to obtain a copy of such information in an electronic format and you may request that we transmit such copy directly to an entity or person designated by you, provided that any such choice is clear, conspicuous and specific. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy medical information in certain circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, in some cases, you

may request that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed health care professional chosen by the hospital 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.

- **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 the hospital. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- ◆ Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
  - ◆ Is not part of the medical information kept by or for the hospital;
  - ◆ Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
  - ◆ Is accurate and complete.
- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” This is a list of certain disclosures we made of medical information about you. The accounting will exclude certain disclosures as provided in applicable laws and rules such as disclosures made directly to you, disclosures you authorize, disclosures to friends or family members involved in your care, disclosures for notification purposes and certain other types of disclosures made to correctional institutions or law enforcement agencies. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, electronically). The first list you request within a 12 month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.
  - **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about a surgery you had.

In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply, for example, disclosures to your spouse.

***We are not required to agree to your request,*** except in limited circumstances where you have paid for medical services out-of-pocket in full and have requested that we

not disclose your medical information to a health plan. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

- **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. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.
- **Right to a Notice of Breach.** You have the right to receive written notification of a breach if your unsecured medical information has been accessed, used, acquired or disclosed to an unauthorized person as a result of such breach, and if the breach compromises the security or privacy of your medical information. Unless specified in writing by you to receive the notification by electronic mail, we will provide such written notification by first-class mail or, if necessary, by such other substituted forms of communication allowable under the law.
- **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. You may obtain a copy of this notice at our website, <http://www.avalonparkinternalmedicine.com>.
- **Right to Decline Participation in Health Information Exchange.** AHS has electronically connected the medical information each AHS facility has in your medical record through a series of interfaces, named iNetwork. iNetwork contains a summary of your most relevant medical information that includes at a minimum, available information regarding your demographics, insurance, problem list, medication list, radiology reports, and lab reports. Making your medical information available through iNetwork promotes efficiency and quality of care. You may choose not to allow your medical information to be shared through iNetwork. It is not a condition of receiving care. If you do not want your medical information shared through iNetwork, please contact the Privacy Officer at the phone number below. Once we process your request, your health care providers will no longer be able to view your medical information in iNetwork. This means that it may take longer for your health care providers to get medical information they may need to treat you.

AHS and its affiliated facilities may also choose to share medical information electronically with other health care providers located near or in the same state as an AHS affiliated facility through regional or state health information exchanges. You may choose not to allow your medical information to be shared through regional or state health information exchanges by either refusing to sign an authorization form or contacting the Privacy Officer at the number below, depending on the consent process of the regional or state health information exchange. This means that it may take longer for your health care providers to get information they may need to treat you. However, even if you do not want to participate in a state health information

exchange, certain state law reporting requirements, such as the immunization registry, will still be fulfilled through health information exchange, and some states still allow health care providers to access your medical information through a regional or state health information exchange if needed to treat you in an emergency.

To exercise the above rights, please contact the following individual to obtain a copy of the relevant form you will need to complete to make your request:

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***Section F: Changes To This Notice.***

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice in Avalon Park Internal Medicine. The notice will contain on the first page, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date. In addition, each time you register at or are admitted to the hospital for treatment or health care services as an inpatient or outpatient, we will make available a copy of the current notice in effect.

***Section G: Complaints***

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the hospital or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with Avalon Park Internal Medicine, contact Pam Clark, Administrator. All complaints must be submitted in writing.

**You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

***Section H: Other Uses of Medical Information***

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

***Section I: Organized Health Care Arrangement***

The “AHS Entity”, the independent contractor members of its Medical Staff (including your physician), and other health care providers affiliated with the “AHS Entity” have agreed, as permitted by law, to share your medical information among themselves for purposes of your treatment, payment or health care operations. This enables us to better address your health care needs.