

Rooted Dental Care

424 W Fullerton Pkwy, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60614
773-404-0101

HIPPA Acknowledgement and Consent Form

These Health Information Privacy Policies & Procedures implement our obligations to protect the privacy of individually identifiable health information that we create, receive, or maintain as a healthcare provider.

We implement these Health Information Privacy Policies and Procedures as a matter of sound business practice; to protect the interests of our patients; and to fulfill our legal obligations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), its implementing regulations at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 (65 Fed. Reg. 82462 {Dec, 28, 2000}). ("Privacy Rules"). As amended (67 Fed. 53182 [Aug. 14, 2002]), and state law that provides greater protection or rights to patients than the Privacy Rules.

As a member of our workforce or as our Business Associate, you are obligated to follow these Health Information Privacy Policies & Procedures faithfully. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action, including termination of your employment or affiliation with us.

These Policies & Procedures address the basics of HIPAA and the Privacy Rules that apply in our dental practice. They do not attempt to cover everything in the Privacy Rules. The Policies & Procedures sometimes refer to forms we use to help implement the policies and to the Privacy Rules themselves when added detail may be needed.

Please note that while the Privacy Rules speak in terms of "individual" rights and actions, these Policies & Procedures use the more familiar word "patient" instead; "patient" should be read broadly to include prospective patient, patients of record, former patients, their authorized representatives, and any other "individuals" contemplated in the Privacy Rules.

If you have questions or doubt about any use or disclosure of individually identifiable health information or about your other obligations under these Health Information Privacy Policies & Procedures, the Privacy Rules or other federal or state law, consult Dr. Priyanka Patel, DMD at 773-404-0101 before you act.

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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

We respect our legal obligation to keep health information that identifies you private. We are obligated by law to give you notice of our privacy practices. This Notice describes how we protect your health information and what rights you have regarding it.

How We May Use and Disclose Your Health Information

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose health 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.

For Treatment: We may use your health information to provide you with dental treatment or services. We may disclose health information about you to dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, other dental office personnel or other health care providers who are involved in your treatment or care. For example, your dentist may need to disclose some of your health information to order tests or lab work to be performed at an outside laboratory or other outside health care provider, or your dentist may need to disclose your health information to people outside the office who may be involved in your dental or health care after you leave the dental office, such as family members, or clergy.

For Payment: We may use and disclose health information about your treatment and services to bill and collect from you, your insurance company or a third-party payer. For example, we may need to give your dental/health insurance plan information so that it will pay us or reimburse you for dental services. We may also tell your health insurance plan about a treatment you are going to receive to determine whether your plan will cover it.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your health information for office operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our dental office and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use your health information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. Some of these reviews may be conducted by independent dentists who are members of our staff, but are not employees of the office. We may also combine health information about many of our patients to decide what additional services we should offer and what services are not needed. We may also disclose information to dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and other office personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the health information we have with health information from other dental practices to see where we can make improvements. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of health information to protect your privacy.

Appointment Reminders: We may use and disclose health information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment at our office. **Treatment Alternatives:** We may use and disclose 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 and disclose 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 for Your Care:** We may disclose your health information to a member of your family, your friend or another individual who is directly involved in your care and the disclosure is necessary for your welfare. The practice will limit the health information disclosed to the family member, friend or other individual to health-related signs and symptoms and to information designed to help you deal with your condition or treatment, including setting and changing appointments, receiving instructions for post-visit care or picking up treatment-related items. We may also

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disclose a limited amount of your health information to locate you or to locate or notify your family member or friend. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. We will not make these disclosures to your friends and family if you tell us not to.

Research: Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose health information about you for research purposes. We generally will obtain your written authorization to use your medical information for research purposes. There may be limited circumstances when access to your information for research purposes may be allowed without your specific consent.

Business Associates: There are some services that we provide through contracts with business associates. For example, we use an outside copy service if needed to make copies of your x-rays. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health care information to our business associate so that the associate can perform the job we have asked the associate to do. To protect your health information, we require the business associate to safeguard the privacy of your information.

As Required by Law: We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

To Avoid a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: We may use and disclose health 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.

Military and Veterans: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release health information about you as required by military command authorities.

Workers' Compensation: We may release your health information for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness. Your written authorization to this release is required, however, if you do not consent to a release of information, your workers' compensation benefits may be denied and you will be responsible for the costs of your dental care.

Public Health Risks: We may disclose your health information for public health activities. These activities generally include the following: • prevention or control of disease, injury or disability, • reporting births and deaths, • reporting abuse or neglect of children, elders and dependent adults, • reporting reactions to medications or problems with products, • notifying people of recalls of products they may be using or • notifying a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose health 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 are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health 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 (which may include written notice to you) or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement: We may release health 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 persons' agreement,
- About a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct,
- About criminal conduct at the hospital 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.

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Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors: We may release health 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 health information about patients of the hospital to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

National Security and Intelligence Activities: We may release health information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services for the President and Others: We may disclose health 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 health information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official if the release would be necessary for the institution to provide you with health care, to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of others or for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Permission from you: Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered in the above categories will be made only with your permission. You may give permission with a written consent or authorization. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission at any time orally or in writing. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose health information about you to the extent your permission is needed for the use or disclosure. 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 provide to you.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

The law gives you many rights regarding your health information. You can:

- ask us to restrict our uses and disclosures for purposes of treatment (except emergency treatment), payment or health care operations. We do not have to agree to do this, but if we agree, we must honor the restrictions that you want. To ask for a restriction, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E Mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.
- ask us to communicate with you in a confidential way, such as by phoning you at work rather than at home, by mailing health information to a different address, or by using E mail to your personal E Mail address. We will accommodate these requests if they are reasonable, and if you pay us for any extra cost. If you want to ask for confidential communications, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.
- ask to see or to get photocopies of your health information. By law, there are a few limited situations in which we can refuse to permit access or copying. For the most part, however, you will be able to review or have a copy of your health information within 30 days of asking us (or sixty days if the information is stored off-site). You may have to pay for photocopies in advance. If we deny your request, we will send you a written explanation, and instructions about how to get an impartial review of our denial if one is legally available. By law, we can have one 30-day extension of the time for us to give you access or photocopies if we send you a written notice of the extension. If you want to review or get photocopies of your health information, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.
- ask us to amend your health information if you think that it is incorrect or incomplete. If we agree, we will amend the information within 60 days from when you ask us. We will send the corrected information to persons who we know got the wrong information, and others that you specify. If we do not agree, you can write a statement of your position, and we will include it with your health information along with any rebuttal statement that we may write. Once your statement of position and/or our rebuttal is included in your health information, we will send it along whenever we make a permitted disclosure of your health information. By law, we can have one 30-day extension of time to consider a request for amendment if

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we notify you in writing of the extension. If you want to ask us to amend your health information, send a written request, including your reasons for the amendment, to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

- get a list of the disclosures that we have made of your health information within the past six years (or a shorter period if you want). By law, the list will not include: disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; disclosures with your authorization; incidental disclosures; disclosures required by law; and some other limited disclosures. You are entitled to one such list per year without charge. If you want more frequent lists, you will have to pay for them in advance. We will usually respond to your request within 60 days of receiving it, but by law we can have one 30 day extension of time if we notify you of the extension in writing. If you want a list, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.
- get additional paper copies of this Notice of Privacy Practices upon request. It does not matter whether you got one electronically or in paper form already. If you want additional paper copies, send a written request to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice.

OUR NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

By law, we must abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices until we choose to change it. We reserve the right to change this notice at any time as allowed by law. If we change this Notice, the new privacy practices will apply to your health information that we already have as well as to such information that we may generate in the future. If we change our Notice of Privacy Practices, we will post the new notice in our office or have copies available in our office.

COMPLAINTS

If you think that we have not properly respected the privacy of your health information, you are free to complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you if you make a complaint. If you want to complain to us, send a written complaint to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the beginning of this Notice. If you prefer, you can discuss your complaint in person or by phone.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about our privacy practices, call or visit the office contact person at the address or phone number shown at the beginning of this Notice.

Patient name _____

Patient Signature (or Guardian if under 18): _____ Date _____

ASIGNEE PER PATIENT TO REVIEW INFORMATION

Name _____ Date _____