

Family Allergy Clinic

Dr. Stuart Agren

Notice of Privacy Practices

I. 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.

II. WE HAVE A LEGAL DUTY TO SAFEGUARD YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

We are legally required to protect the privacy of your health information. We call this information “protected health information” (PHI) and it includes information that can be used to identify you that we’ve created or received about your past, present, or future health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or payment of this health care. We must provide you with this notice about our privacy practices that explain how, when and why we use or disclose your PHI. With some exceptions, we may not use or disclose any more of your PHI than is necessary to accomplish the purpose of the use or disclosure. We are legally required to follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice.

However, we reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and our privacy policies at any time. Any changes will apply to the PHI we already have. Before we make an important change to our policies, we will promptly change this notice and post a new notice in the main reception area. You can also request a copy of this notice from our office at any time.

III. HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

We use and disclose health information for many different reasons. Below, we describe the different categories of our uses and disclosures and give you some examples of each category.

A. Uses and Disclosures Relating to Treatment, Payment of Health Care Operations.

We may use and disclose your PHI for the following reasons:

- 1. For Treatment.** We may disclose your PHI to physicians, nurses, medical students, and other health care personnel who provide you with health care services or are involved in your care.
- 2. To obtain payment for treatment.** We may use and disclose your PHI in order to bill and collect payment for the treatment and services provided to you. For example, we may provide portions of your PHI to our billing department and your health care plan to get paid for the health care services we provided to you. We may also provide your PHI to our business associates such as claims processing companies and other that process our health care claims.

3. For health care operations. We may disclose your PHI in order to operate this facility. For example, we may use your PHI in order to evaluate the quality of health care services that you received or to evaluate the performance of the health care services to you. We may also provide your PHI to our accountants, attorneys, consultants, and other in order to make sure we’re complying with the laws that affect us.

B. Other Potential Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI

1. When federal, state or local law, judicial or administrative proceedings, or law enforcement requires a disclosure.

For example, we make disclosures when a law requires that we report information to government agencies and law enforcement personnel about victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; when dealing with gunshot and other wounds; or when ordered in judicial or administrative proceeding.

2. For health oversight activities. For example, we will provide information to assist the government when it conducts an investigation or inspection of a health care provider or organization.

3. For research purposes. In certain circumstances, we may provide PHI in order to conduct medical research.

4. To avoid harm. In order to avoid a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public, we may provide PHI to law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or lessen such harm.

5. For specific government functions. We may disclose PHI of military personnel and veterans in certain situations. And we may disclose PHI for national security purposes, such as protecting the President of the United States or conducting intelligence operations.

6. For workers’ compensation purposes. We may disclose PHI in order to comply with workers’ compensation laws.

7. Appointment reminders and health-related benefits or services. We may use PHI to provide appointment reminders or give you information about treatment alternatives, or other health care services or benefits we offer.

C. Disclosures to Family, Friends, or Others. We may provide your PHI to a family member, friend or other person that you indicate is involved in your care or the payment for your health care, unless you object in whole or in part. The opportunity to consent may be obtained retroactively in emergency situations.

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D. All Other Users and Disclosures Required Your Written Authorization. In any other situation not described in sections III. A. or B. above, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing (to the extent that we haven't taken any action relying on the authorization).

E. We DO NOT SELL any PHI to Outside Firms.

IV. WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE REGARDING YOUR PHI.

You have the following rights with respect to your PHI:

- A. The Right to Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI.** You have the right to request, in writing, that we limit how we use and disclose your PHI. We will consider your request but are not legally required to accept it. If we accept your request, we will put any limits in writing and abide by them except in emergency situations. You may not limit the uses and disclosures that we are legally required or allowed to make.
- B. The Right to Choose How we Send PHI to You.** You have the right to ask that we send information to you to an alternate address (*for example, sending information to your work address rather than your home address*) or by alternate means (*for example, email instead of regular mail*). We must agree to your request so long as we can easily provide it in the format you requested.
- C. The Right to See and Get Copies of Your PHI.** In most cases, you have the right to look at or get copies of your PHI that we have, but you must make the request in writing. If we don't have your PHI but we know who does, we will tell you how to get it. We will respond to you within 30 days after receiving your written request. In certain situations, we may deny your request. If we do, we will tell you, in writing, our reasons for the denial and explain your right to have the denial reviewed.

If you request copies of your PHI, we will charge you. Prices vary depending on the size of your chart. Advanced payment is required. Instead of providing the PHI requested, we may provide you with a summary or explanation of the PHI.

- D. The Right to Get a List of the Disclosures We Have Made.** You have the right to get a list of instances in which we have disclosed your PHI. The list will not include uses or disclosures that you have already consented to, such as those made for treatment, payment, or health care operations, directly to you, to your family, or in our facility

directory. The list also won't include uses and disclosures made for national security purposes, to corrections or law enforcement personnel, or before April 14, 2003.

We will respond within 60 days of receiving your request. The list we will give you will include disclosures made in the last six years, but not before April 14, 2003, unless you request a shorter time. The list will include the date of the disclosure, to whom PHI was disclosed (including their address, if known), a description of the information disclosed, and the reason for the disclosure. We will provide the list to you at no charge, but if you make more than one request in the same year, we will charge you \$25.00 for each additional request.

- E. The Right to Correct or Update Your PHI.** If you believe that there is a mistake in your PHI or that a piece of important information is missing, you have the right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information. You must provide the request and your reason for the request in writing. We will respond within 60 days of receiving your request. We may deny your request in writing if the PHI is (i) correct and complete, (ii) not created by us, (iii) not allowed to be disclosed, or (iv) not part of our records. Our written denial will state the reasons for the denial and explain your right to file a written statement of disagreement with the denial. If you don't file one, you have the right to request that your request and our denial be attached to all future disclosures of your PHI. If we approve your request, we will make the change to your PHI, tell you that we have done it, and tell others that need to know about the change to your PHI.
- F. The Right to Get a Copy of This Notice.** You have a right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of the notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy call our office (480) 827-9945.

V. HOW TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR PRIVACYS PRACTICES.

If you think that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your PHI, you may file a complaint with the Arizona Department of Health Services (602) 364-1560 or with our office (480) 827-9945. We will take no retaliatory action against you if you file a complaint about our privacy practices.

Effective Date 04/14/2003