

North Mississippi Medical Centers' and Clinics' Summary Notice of Privacy Practices

Effective Date: April 14, 2003

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.

Este aviso describe cómo la información médica sobre usted puede ser utilizada y divulgada y cómo usted puede conseguir el acceso a esta información. Por favor revise con cuidado.

Si usted quiere, nosotros podemos hacer una copia de este aviso de la práctica de la privacidad disponible en español.

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. North Mississippi Medical Centers' hospitals and North Mississippi Medical Clinics and their affiliated companies ("NMMC") are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information, to follow the terms of this Notice, and to provide you with this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information. Employees, staff and physicians at NMMC will follow this notice. A detailed Notice of our Privacy Practices is listed behind this summary and on our website.

How NMMC May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

NMMC protects the privacy of your health information. For some activities, we must have your written authorization to use or disclose your health information. However, the law permits NMMC to use or disclose your health information for several purposes without your authorization, including but not limited to:

For Treatment. We may use and disclose information obtained by NMMC employees, staff, physicians and other health care providers will be used to treat you.

For Payment. We may use and disclose your health information so that NMMC and physician(s) may bill and collect payment from you, an insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid or other third party.

For Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose health information about you for health care operations. These uses and disclosures are

necessary to run NMMC and make sure that you receive appropriate care.

As Required by Law. We will disclose health 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 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.

Public Health Risks. We may disclose health information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) to prevent or control disease, injury or disability, and (2) to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a person has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

For Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for activities which are necessary for the government or an oversight agency to monitor and investigate the health care system.

Lawsuits and Disputes. We may disclose health information about you in response to a court order or subpoena, if you are involved in a lawsuit or legal dispute.

For Specific Government Functions. We may disclose health information for the following specific government functions: (1) military personnel, as required by military command authorities; (2) health of inmates, to a correctional institution or law enforcement official; (3) in response to an appropriate request from law enforcement; and (4) for national security reasons.

To Business Associates. To those companies that perform service on behalf of NMMC, including transcription services, consultants and collection agencies.

Other Uses of PHI. Other uses and disclosures of your PHI not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization.

When NMMC May Not Use or Disclose Your Health Information

Except as described in our Notice of Privacy Practices, NMMC will not use or disclose your health information without your written authorization. If you do authorize NMMC to use or disclose your health information for another purpose, you may revoke your authorization in writing at any time.

You Have the Following Rights With Respect to Your Health Information

You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information. NMMC is not required to agree to a restriction that you request.

You have the right to inspect and request a copy, for a fee, of your health information.

You have the right to request that NMMC amend your health information that you believe is incorrect or incomplete. NMMC is not required to amend health information that is accurate and complete.

You have a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information we have made after April 14, 2003 for purposes other than disclosures (1) for NMMC's treatment, payment or health care operations, (2) based upon your authorization to others, and (3) for certain government functions.

You may request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

To Report a Problem or File a Complaint

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can report a problem or file a complaint with the Privacy Officer at (888) 246-2808 or with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation or denial of treatment for filing a complaint.

Changes to This Notice of Privacy Practices

NMMC reserves the right to change this Notice and post the changes. Upon request, we will provide a revised Notice to you.

Visit us online at: www.nmhs.net