

## HIPAA PRIVACY POLICY \* 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 AND SIGN & DATE THE BOTTOM.**

*Dr. Cooley and his staff understand that medical information about you and your health is personal, and we are committed to protecting your medical information. Individually identifiable information about your past, present or future health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or payment for such health care is considered "Protected Health Information" ("PHI").*

### **Our Permitted Uses and Disclosures of Your Protected Health Information**

We use and disclose PHI about you for treatment, payment, and health care operations.

**Treatment:** We may disclose PHI to another physician or hospital for treatment purposes.

**Payment:** We disclose your PHI in order to help you get reimbursed by your insurance carrier to the fullest degree possible.

**Health Care Operations:** We disclose your PHI as a part of certain operations, such as quality improvement. For example, we may use your PHI to evaluate the quality of services that were performed.

We may be asked by the sponsor of your health plan to provide your PHI to the sponsor. If we are asked to do so, we intend to honor such requests unless we are prohibited by law from doing so.

We may use or disclose your PHI without your authorization for several other reasons. Subject to certain requirements, we may give out PHI without your authorization for public health purposes, auditing purposes, research studies, and emergencies. We provide PHI when otherwise required by law, such as for law enforcement in specific circumstances, or for judicial or administrative proceedings. In any other situation, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing your PHI. If you choose to sign an authorization to allow disclosure of your PHI, you can later revoke that authorization to stop any future uses and disclosures (other than for treatment, payment and health care operations).

We may change our policies at any time. Before we make a significant change in our policies, we will change our notice and send the new notice to you. You can also request a copy of our notice at any time.

### **Individual Rights:**

In most cases, you have the right to view or get a copy of your PHI. You also have the right to receive a list of instances where we have disclosed your PHI without your written authorization for reasons other than treatment, payment or health care operations. If you believe that information in your record is incorrect or if important information is missing, you have the right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information.

You may request in writing that we not use or disclose your PHI for treatment, payment and health care operations except when specifically authorized by you, when required by law, or in emergency circumstances. We will consider your request but are not legally required to accept it. You also have the right to receive confidential communications of PHI by alternative means or at alternative locations, if you clearly state that disclosure of all or part of your PHI could endanger you.

### **Complaints:**

If you are concerned that we have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we have made about access to your records, you may contact us at the address listed below. You may also send a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at: 200 Independence Ave SW; Washington, DC. 20201

### **Our Legal Duty:**

We are required by law to protect the privacy of your information, provide this notice about our information practices, and follow the information practices that are described in this notice.

If you wish to inspect your records, receive a listing of disclosures, or correct or add to the information in your record, or if you have any questions, complaints or concerns, please contact Dr. Raymond Cooley at: **485 Cayuga Rd., Buffalo, NY 14225 phone: 716-608-3775**

***Please sign here signifying that you have read and understood this policy. Thank you.***

Written Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_