

Oleander Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

Notice of Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information, to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information, and to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured protected health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect 04/14/03, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law, and to make new Notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain. When we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and post the new Notice clearly and prominently at our practice location, and we will provide copies of the new Notice upon request.

You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

HOW WE MAY SEND HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Your protected health information ("PHI") includes information relating to your mental or physical health and to the health care provided to you, including materials like your dental records, dental x-rays, and payment records. Some documents containing PHI may include such sensitive personal information as a Social Security number, credit card number, mental health diagnosis, genetic information, alcohol/substance abuse records, positive HIV status, and other kinds of sensitive information.

Sometimes our dental practice needs to send PHI to the patient or to someone else, such as a specialist. There are various ways to send PHI, including email and other electronic means. Our dental practice does not encrypt email or other electronic forms of communication.

There is a risk that unencrypted information may be acquired by hackers or received by unintended recipients. If you are concerned about the security of PHI that may be sent unencrypted, please let us know and we will send it a different way, which may include providing the information to you to deliver.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

We may use and disclose your health information for different purposes, including treatment, payment, and health care operations.

Treatment. We may disclose your health information to a specialist providing treatment to you.

Payment. Payment activities include billing, collections, claims management, and determinations of eligibility and coverage to obtain payment from you, an insurance company, or another third party. For example, we may send claims to your dental health plan containing certain health information.

Healthcare Operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, conducting training programs, and licensing activities.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. We may disclose your health information to your family or friends or any other individual identified by you when they are involved in your care or in the payment for your care. Additionally, we may disclose information about you to a patient representative. If a person has the authority by law to make health care decisions for you, we will treat that patient representative the same way we would treat you with respect to your health information.

Disaster Relief. We may use or disclose your health information to assist in disaster relief efforts.

Required by Law. We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

Public Health Activities. We may disclose your health information for public health activities, including disclosures to:

- o Prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
- o Report child abuse or neglect;
- o Report reactions to medications or problems with products or devices;
- o Notify a person of a recall, repair, or replacement of products or devices;
- o Notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or condition; or
- o Notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

National Security. We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody the protected health information of an inmate or patient.

Secretary of HHS. We will disclose your health information to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when required to investigate or determine compliance with HIPAA.

Worker's Compensation. We may disclose your PHI to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to worker's compensation or other similar programs established by law.

Law Enforcement. We may disclose your PHI for law enforcement purposes as permitted by HIPAA, as required by law, or in response to a subpoena or court order.

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose your PHI to an oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include audits, investigations, inspections, and credentialing, as necessary for

OLEANDER FAMILY AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

You may Refuse to Sign This Acknowledgement

I, _____, have received a copy of this office's
Notice of Privacy Practices.

(signature)

(date)

For Office Use Only

We attempted to obtain written acknowledgement of receipt of our Notice of Privacy Practices, but
acknowledgement could not be obtained because:

_____ Individual refused to sign

_____ Communications barriers prohibited obtaining the acknowledgement

_____ An emergency situation prevented us from obtaining acknowledgement

_____ Other (please specify) _____