



RIGHT CHOICE DENTAL CARE HIPPA PATIENT CONSENT FORM

In April of 2003, new federal requirements regarding privacy of information for health care patients take effect. H.I.P.P.A., the Health Insurance Portability Act requires that all medical providers, insurance companies and others put in place controls to ensure that your personal medical information is safe.

Right Choice Dental Care requests that each patient sign this consent form which allows us to share protected health information with other dental offices and insurance company. By signing this form, you consent to our use and disclosure of protected health information about you for treatment, payment and health care operations. You have the right to revoke this consent, in writing, except where we have already made disclosures in reliance on your prior consent.

Our Notice of Privacy Practices provides information about how we may use and disclose protected health information about you. You have the right to review our notice before signing this consent.

Authorize

Not Authorized

Authorization to Release Information to Family Members

Many of our patients allow family members such as their spouse, parents or others to call and request the results of tests and procedures. Under the requirements for H.I.P.P.A we are not allowed to give this information to anyone with the patient's consent. If you wish to have your information released to family members you must authorize and sign this form. Signing this form will only give consent to release laboratory and radiology results to the family members indicated below. This consent form will not allow Right Choice Dental Care to release any other information to these family members.

You have the right to revoke this consent, in writing, except where we have already made disclosures in reliance on your prior consent.

I authorize Right Choice Dental Care to release my laboratory/radiology results and reports to the following individuals:

1. _____ Relation to Patient _____ Date _____

2. _____ Relation to Patient _____ Date _____

Authorize

Not Authorized

Authorization to Leave Messages with Household Members/Answering Machine

From time to time it is necessary for representatives of Right Choice Dental Care to leave messages for patients. The purpose of these messages is to remind patients that they have an appointment, to notify the patient that the staff would like to discuss lab or procedure results or to ask a patient to call the office regarding an issue or concern. At no time will a representative of Right Choice Dental Care discuss your medical circumstances or conditions without your consent. The purpose of this consent is to leave messages with members of your household or on your answering machine.

You have the right to revoke this consent in writing, except where we have already made disclosures in reliance on your prior consent.

Authorize

Not Authorized

Signature of Patient or Representative _____ Date _____

Name of Patient or Representative _____ Date _____

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
FOR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**
[45 CFR 164.520]

<http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/privacy-practices-for-protected-health-information/index.html>

Background

The HIPAA Privacy Rule gives individuals a fundamental new right to be informed of the privacy practices of their health plans and of most of their health care providers, as well as to be informed of their privacy rights with respect to their personal health information. Health plans and covered health care providers are required to develop and distribute a notice that provides a clear explanation of these rights and practices. The notice is intended to focus individuals on privacy issues and concerns, and to prompt them to have discussions with their health plans and health care providers and exercise their rights.

How the Rule Works

General Rule. The Privacy Rule provides that an individual has a right to adequate notice of how a covered entity may use and disclose protected health information about the individual, as well as his or her rights and the covered entity's obligations with respect to that information. Most covered entities must develop and provide individuals with this notice of their privacy practices.

The Privacy Rule does not require the following covered entities to develop a notice:

- Health care clearinghouses, if the only protected health information they create or receive is as a business associate of another covered entity. See 45 CFR 164.500(b)(1).
- A correctional institution that is a covered entity (e.g., that has a covered health care provider component).
- A group health plan that provides benefits only through one or more contracts of insurance with health insurance issuers or HMOs, and that does not create or receive protected health information other than summary health information or enrollment or disenrollment information. See 45 CFR 164.520(a).

Content of the Notice. Covered entities are required to provide a notice in *plain language* that describes:

- How the covered entity may use and disclose protected health information about an individual.
- The individual's rights with respect to the information and how the individual may exercise these rights, including how the individual may complain to the covered entity.
- The covered entity's legal duties with respect to the information, including a statement that the covered entity is required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information.
- Whom individuals can contact for further information about the covered entity's privacy policies.

The notice must include an effective date. See 45 CFR 164.520(b) for the specific requirements for developing the content of the notice. A covered entity is required to promptly revise and distribute its notice whenever it makes material changes to any of its privacy practices. See 45 CFR 164.520(b)(3), 164.520(c)(1)(i)(C) for health plans, and 164.520(c)(2)(iv) for covered health care providers with direct treatment relationships with individuals.

Providing the Notice.

- A covered entity must make its notice available to any person who asks for it.
- A covered entity must prominently post and make available its notice on any website it maintains that provides information about its customer services or benefits.
- *Health Plans* must also:
 - ✓ Provide the notice to individuals then covered by the plan no later than April 14, 2003 (April 14, 2004, for small health plans) and to new enrollees at the time of enrollment.
 - ✓ Provide a revised notice to individuals then covered by the plan within 60 days of a material revision.
 - ✓ Notify individuals then covered by the plan of the availability of and how to obtain the notice at least once every three years.
- *Covered Direct Treatment Providers* must also:
 - ✓ Provide the notice to the individual no later than the date of first service delivery (after the April 14, 2003 compliance date of the Privacy Rule) and, except in an emergency treatment situation, make a good faith effort to obtain the individual's written acknowledgment of receipt of the notice. If an acknowledgment cannot be obtained, the provider must document his or her efforts to obtain the acknowledgment and the reason why it was not obtained.
 - ✓ When first service delivery to an individual is provided over the Internet, through e-mail, or otherwise electronically, the provider must send an electronic notice automatically and contemporaneously in response to the individual's first request for service. The provider must make a good faith effort to obtain a return receipt or other transmission from the individual in response to receiving the notice.
 - ✓ In an emergency treatment situation, provide the notice as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so after the emergency situation has ended. In these situations, providers are not required to make a good faith effort to obtain a written acknowledgment from individuals.
 - ✓ Make the latest notice (i.e., the one that reflects any changes in privacy policies) available at the provider's office or facility for individuals to request to take with them, and post it in a clear and prominent location at the facility.
- A covered entity may e-mail the notice to an individual if the individual agrees to receive an electronic notice. See 45 CFR 164.520(c) for the specific requirements for providing the notice.

Organizational Options.

- Any covered entity, including a hybrid entity or an affiliated covered entity, may choose to develop more than one notice, such as when an entity performs different types of covered functions (i.e., the functions that make it a health plan, a health care provider, or a health care clearinghouse) and there are variations in its privacy practices among these covered functions. Covered entities are encouraged to provide individuals with the most specific notice possible.
- Covered entities that participate in an organized health care arrangement may choose to produce a single, joint notice if certain requirements are met. For example, the joint notice must describe the covered entities and the service delivery sites to which it applies. If any one of the participating covered entities provides the joint notice to an individual, the notice distribution requirement with respect to that individual is met for all of the covered entities. See 45 CFR 164.520(d).