

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Understanding Your Protected Health Information

Each time you visit O'Neill Plastic Surgery, a record is made of your visit. We are legally required to protect the privacy of this record containing your PHI. **We collect or receive this information about your past, present, or future health condition, to provide health care to you, to receive payment for the health care, or to operate the clinic or operating room.**_____

How we may use and release your protected PHI:

The following does not require your authorization, except where required by SC law:

- **For treatment.** Your PHI may be discussed by caregivers to determine your plan of care. The physician, nurses, and other health care personnel may share PHI in order to coordinate the services you may need.
- **To obtain payment.** We may use and disclose PHI to obtain payment for our services from you, an insurance company, or a third party.
- **For health care operations.** We may use and disclose PHI for clinic or operating room operations. For example, we may use the information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you.
- **For public health activities.** We report to public health authorities as required by law, information regarding deaths, various diseases, reactions to medications and medical products.
- **Victims of abuse, neglect, domestic violence.** Your PHI may be released as required by law, to the SC Department of Social Services when cases of abuse and neglect are suspected.
- **Health oversight activities.** We will release information for the federal or state audits, civil, administrative or criminal investigations, inspections, or disciplinary actions, as required by law.
- **Judicial and administrative proceedings.** Your PHI may be released in response to a subpoena or court order.
- **Law enforcement or national security purposes.**
- **Uses and disclosures about patients who have died.** We provide coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors necessary information relating to an individual's death.
- **Research.** We may use your PHI if the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Privacy Board reviews for research, approves and establishes safeguards to ensure privacy.
- **To avoid harm.** In order to avoid a serious threat to the health or safety of a person or the public, we may release limited information to law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or lessen such harm.

- **For worker's compensation purposes.** We may release your PHI to comply with worker's compensation laws.
- **Marketing.** We may send you information on the latest treatment, support groups and other resources affecting your health.
- **Fundraising activities.** We may use you PHI to communicate with you to raise funds to support health care services and educational programs we provide to the community.
- **Appointment reminders and health-related benefits and services.** We may contact you with a reminder that you have an appointment for check-up or treatment.

What rights you have regarding your PHI:

Although your health record is the physical property of O'Neill Plastic Surgery, the information belongs to you, and you have the following rights with respect to your PHI:

- **The right to request limits on how we use and release your PHI.** You have the right to ask that we limit how we use and release you PHI. We will consider your request but we 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.
- **The right to choose how we communicate PHI to you.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your PHI in a certain way or at a certain location (for example, sending information to your work address rather than your home address). You must make your request in writing and specify how and where you wish to be contacted.
- **The right to see and get copies of your PHI.** You have the right to inspect and receive a copy of your PHI, which is contained in a designated record set that may be used to make decisions about your care. You must submit your request in writing. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for copying, mailing, or other costs associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and receive a copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to PHI, you may request that the denial be reviewed.
- **The right to get a list of instances of when and to whom we have disclosed your PHI.** This list **may not** include uses such as those made for treatment, payment, or health care operations, directly to you, or to your family. This list also **may not** include uses for which a signed authorization has been received.
- **The right to amend your PHI.** If you believe that there is a mistake in your PHI or that a piece of important information is missing, you may have the right to request that we amend the existing information or add the missing information. You must provide the request and your reason for the request in writing. We may deny your request in writing if the PHI is correct and complete or it is another facility's report.
- **The right to receive a paper or of this notice.** You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. For the above requests (and to receive forms) please contact the office at:

**Attn: Release of Information
O'Neill Plastic Surgery
245 Seven Farms Drive Suite 210
Daniel Island, SC 29492
Or
(843) 881-2130**

- **The right to revoke an authorization.** If you choose to sign an authorization to release your PHI, you can later revoke that authorization in writing. This will stop any future release of your health information except as allowed or required by law.

We reserve the right to change the terms of this notice at any time. We also reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for the PHI we already have about you as well as information we receive in the future. The notice will always contain the effective date.

How to complain about our privacy policy practices:

If you think that your privacy rights may have been violated, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your PHI, you may file a complaint with the office listed in the next section of this notice. Please be assured that you will not be penalized and there will be no retaliation for voicing a concern or filing a complaint. We are committed to the delivery of quality health care in an environment that is confidential and private.

Person to contact for information about this notice or to complain about privacy practices

If you have any questions about this notice or any complaints about our privacy practices please call the office manager at (843)881-2130. You may also send a written complaint to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The address will be provided at your request.