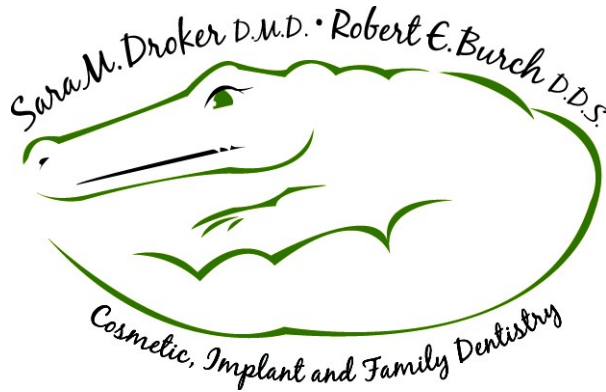




Notice of privacy practices

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
The privacy of your health information is important to us

Our Legal Duty

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice.

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. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and make the new notice available upon request.

You may request a copy of our notice 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.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment and healthcare operations. For example:

TREATMENT: We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you.

PAYMENT: We may use or disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

HEALTHCARE OPERATIONS: We may use and disclose your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualification of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

YOUR AUTHORIZATION: In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this notice.

TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS: We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the patient's rights section of this notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

PERSONS INVOLVED IN CARE: We may use or disclose health information to notify or assist in the notification of a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only the health information that is directly relevant to the persons involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with the common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

ABUSE OR NEGLECT: We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or the safety of others.

We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization. We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law. We may disclose to military authorities the health information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorize federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities.

PATIENT RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities for the last 6 years but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost based fee.

Restrictions: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement.

You have the right to request that we amend your health information. You must request this in writing and explain why the information should be amended. We maintain the right to deny your request under certain circumstances.

If you want more information regarding our privacy practices, please contact us.