

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 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 while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect April 15, 2003, and will remain in effect until we replace it. We may change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We may 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. We will post a copy of our notice in our office and on our website www.mysmilekeeper.com. The effective date of the Notice is provided above. 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.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We may 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 another dentist or healthcare provider providing treatment to you, or if we refer you to another health care provider.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you. We may need to share part of your health information with our billing department, your insurance company, collection agencies or attorneys assisting us with collections, and others who are responsible for your bills, such as your spouse, as necessary for us to collect payment. For example, we may give information about a dental procedure that you had to your dental insurance company so it will pay us or reimburse you for your dental procedure.

Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, and 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 of disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

To Your Family, Friends, and Other Persons Involved in Your Care: We may share with a family member, friend or other person identified by you, your health information that is directly related to that person's involvement in your care or payment for your care, or to notify such individuals of your location or general condition, but only if you agree that we may do so, or, based on our professional judgment, we determine that you would not object to the disclosure. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience in allowing a person to pick up supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information on your behalf.

Use and Disclosure of Health Information Required by Law: We may use and disclose your health information when required by federal or state law; when required in court or administrative proceedings; for public health activities; to health oversight agencies; to coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors; to the military; to federal officials for lawful intelligence and national security activities; to correctional institutions regarding inmates; to law enforcement officials; to report abuse, neglect, or domestic violence; to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health and safety of others; and as authorized by state worker's compensation laws.

Marketing Health-Related Services: We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

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 other possible crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

PATIENT RIGHTS

Right to See and Copy Your Health Information: You have the right to see or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. If we deny your request due to one of these exceptions, we will respond to you in writing with the reason we cannot grant your request, and describe any rights you may have to request a review of our denial. You must make a written request us to access your health information. Your written request must be signed and dated. We may charge you a fee for expenses such as copies, staff time, and postage. Instead of providing you with a copy of your health information, we may prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee, if you agree in advance to the form and fee of the summary or explanation.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our office disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations a 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 for responding to these additional requests.

Right to Request Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information, including uses or disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations, and to family members, friends, or others involved in your care or payment for your care. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do we will abide by our agreement (except in certain situations, such as to provide you with emergency treatment).

Right to Request Alternative Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work, or only by mail. You must make your request in writing and your request must be signed and dated. Your request must specify the ways in which you wish to be contacted.

Right to Request Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. You must submit a written request that is signed and dated. Your request must explain why your health information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

Right to Written Notice: If you receive this Notice on our website or by email, you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PRIVACY OFFICER

Should you wish to contact the Privacy Officer, you may do so at the address and telephone number below.

Privacy Officer
11759 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone: (301) 881-8866