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#### **Gobinder S. Chopra MD**

Board Certified in Neurology Board Certified in Neurophysiology Board Certified in Brain Injury Medicine Board Certified IME Certified Disability Examiner

# **Notice of Privacy Practices**

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

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact The Office Manager.

# **OUR OBLIGATIONS:**

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of protected health information
- Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you
- Follow the terms of our notice that is currently in effect

### HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION:

The following describes the ways we may use and disclose health information that identifies you ("Health Information"). Except or the purposes described below, we will use and disclose Health Information only with your written permission. You may revoke such permission at any time by writing to our practice Privacy Officer.

**For Treatment:** We may use and disclose Health Information for your treatment and to provide you with treatment-related health care services. For example, we may disclose Health Information to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel, including people outside our office, who are involved in your medical care and need the information to provide you with medical care.

**For Payment:** We may use and disclose Health Information so that we or others may bill and receive payment from you, an insurance company or a third party for the treatment and services you received. For example, we may give your health plan information about you so that they will pay for your treatment.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose Health Information for health care operations purposes. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care and to operate and manage our office. For example, we may use and disclose information to make sure the neurological care you receive is of the highest quality. We also may share information with other entities that have a relationship with you (for example, your health plan) for their health care operation activities.

**Appointment Reminders:** We may use and disclose Health Information to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment with us.

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:** When appropriate, we may share Health Information with a person who is involved in your medical care or payment for your care, such as your family or a close friend. We also may notify your family about your location or general condition or disclose such information to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort.

#### **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:**

**As Required by Law:** We will disclose Health Information when required to do so by international, federal, state, or local law.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose Health Information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Disclosures, however, will be made only to someone who may be able to help prevent the threat.

**Workers' Compensation:** We may release Health Information for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

**Public Health Risks:** We may disclose Health Information for public health activities. These activities generally include disclosures to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; report births and deaths; report child abuse or neglect; report reactions to medications or problems with products; notify people of recalls of products they may be using; a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; and the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

**Health Oversight Activities:** We may disclose Health Information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

**Data Breach Notification Purposes:** We may use or disclose your Protected Health Information to provide legally required notices of unauthorized access to or disclosure of your health information.

**Lawsuits and Disputes:** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose Health Information in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose Health Information in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement: We may release Health Information if asked by a law enforcement official if the information is: (1) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; (2) limited information to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; (3) about the victim of a crime even if, under certain very limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; (4) about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; (5) about criminal conduct on our premises; and (6) in an emergency to report a crime, the location of the crime or victims, or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

#### USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE US TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT AND OPT

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:** Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, you Protected Health Information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

# **YOUR RIGHTS:**

You have the following rights regarding Health Information we have about you:

**Right to Inspect and Copy:** You have a right to inspect and copy Health Information that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. This includes medical and billing records. To inspect and copy this Health Information, you must make your request, in writing, to Gobinder Chopra, MD We have up to 30 days to make your Protected Health Information available to you and we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may not charge you a fee if you need the information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state of federal needs-based benefit program.

**Right to Get Notice of a Breach:** You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured Protected Health Information.

**Right to Amend:** If you feel that Health Information, we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our office. To request an amendment, you must make your request, in writing, to Gobinder Chopra, MD.

**Out-of-pocket-payments:** If you paid out-of-pocket(or in other words, you have requested that we not bill your health plan) in full for a specific item or service, you have the right to ask that your Protected Health Information with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations, and we will honor that request.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you by mail or at work. To request confidential communications, you must make your request, in writing, to Gobinder Chopra, MD. your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

**Right to a Paper Copy 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. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. You may obtain a copy of this notice at our web site, www.Chopramd.com. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact the office of Gobinder Chopra, MD.

#### **COMPLAINTS:**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact the Office Manager. All complaints must be made in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.** 

For more information on HIPAA privacy requirements, HIPAA electronic transactions and code sets regulations and the proposed HIPAA security rules, please visit ACOG's web site, www.acog.org, or call (202) 863-2584.

# **Acknowledgment of Review of Notice of Privacy Practices**

I have reviewed the Notice of Privacy Practices, which explains how my medical information will be used an disclosed. I understand that I am entitled to receive a copy of this document.	
Signature of Patient or Authorized Representative	Date
Name of Patient or Authorized Representative	
Description of Authorized Representative's Authority	
For Office Use Only	
Notice of Privacy Practices sent/delivered on	Initials
Signed Acknowledgment of Receipt received on	Initials
Patient Refused or Failed to Acknowledge Receipt on	Initials