



2496 E Street, #2A
San Diego, CA 92102
P 619.407.9424
F 888.965.5102
michaeljuan@outlook.com

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: September 1, 2013

Revision Date: June 15, 2016

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

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact:

Michael A. Juan
2496 E Street, #2A
San Diego, CA 92102
619.407.9424

1. Summary of Rights and Obligations Concerning Health Information

I am committed to preserving the privacy and confidentiality of your health information, which is required both by federal and state law, as well as by ethics of the licensed health professions. I am required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties, your rights, and our privacy practices, with respect to using and disclosing your health information that is created or retained.

Each time you visit, I make a record of your visit. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. I have an ethical and legal obligation to protect the privacy of your health information, and will only use or disclose this information in limited circumstances. In general, I may use and disclose your health information to:

- plan your care and treatment;
- provide treatment by myself or others;
- communicate with other providers such as referring providers;
- receive payment from you, your health plan, or your health insurer;
- make quality assessments and work to improve the care we render and the outcomes we achieve, known as health care operations;
- make you aware of services and treatments that may be of interest to you; and
- comply with state and federal laws that require us to disclose your health information. This includes situations where you may be a *harm to yourself, harm to others, or gravely disabled*; as well as in response to reports of *child abuse* or *elder abuse*. Abuse may be physical, sexual, emotional, exploitive, neglectful, or financial in nature. Streaming, downloading, or accessing sexual explicit material involving minors also constitutes child abuse. Disclosures may also be made in accordance with the Patriot Act.

I may also use or disclose your health information where you have authorized me to do so. You have certain rights to your health information. You have the right to:

- ensure the accuracy of your health record;
- request confidential communications between you and your physician and request limits on the use and disclosure of your health information; and
- request an accounting of certain uses and disclosures of health information I have made about you.



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I am required to:

- maintain the privacy of your health information;
- provide you with notice, such as this *Notice of Privacy Practices*, as to my legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information I collect and maintain about you;
- abide by the terms of this most current *Notice of Privacy Practices*;
- notify you if I am unable to agree to a requested restriction; and
- accommodate reasonable requests you may have to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations.

I reserve the right to change my practices and to make the new provisions effective for all your health information that I maintain.

Should my information practices change, a revised *Notice of Privacy Practices* will be available upon request. If there is a material change, a revised *Notice of Privacy Practices* will be distributed to the extent required by law.

I will not use or disclose your health information without your authorization, except as described in my most current *Notice of Privacy Practices*.

In the following pages, I explain our privacy practices and your rights to your health information in more detail.

2. I May Use or Disclose Your Protected Health Information In The Following Ways

- A. *Treatment.*** I may use and disclose your health information to provide you with treatment or services. For example, I may use your health information to prescribe a course of treatment. I will record your current healthcare information in a record so, in the future, I can see your health history to help in diagnosing and treatment, or to determine how well you are responding to treatment. I may provide your health information to other providers, such as referring therapists or specialist physicians, to assist in your treatment. Should you ever be hospitalized, I may provide the hospital or its staff with the health information it requires to provide you with effective treatment.
- B. *Payment.*** I may use and disclose your health information so that I may bill and collect payment for the services provided to you. For example, I may contact your health insurer to verify your eligibility for benefits, and may need to disclose to it some details of your medical condition or expected course of treatment. I may use or disclose your information so that a bill may be sent to you, your health insurer, or a family member. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you and your diagnosis, as well as services rendered, any procedures performed, and supplies used. I may provide health information to another provider, such as an ambulance company that transported you to our office, to assist in their billing and collection efforts. Also, should you choose to pay for services by credit/debit card, payments will be processed by an online company that may utilize your payment information.
- C. *Health Care Operations.*** I may use and disclose your health information to assist in the operation of my practice. For example, I may use information in your health record to assess the care and outcomes in your case and others like it as part of a continuous effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of the healthcare and services I provide. I may use and disclose your health information



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- to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for my practice. I may also provide such information to other health care entities for their health care operations. For example, I may provide information to your health insurer for its quality review purposes.
- D. Business Associates.** I sometimes contract with third-party business associates for services. Examples include answering services, transcriptionists, billing services, consultants, and legal counsel. I may disclose your health information to my business associates so that they can perform the job I have asked them to do. To protect your health information, however, I require business associates to appropriately safeguard your information.
- E. Appointment Reminders.** I may use and disclose Information in your medical record to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment. I may call you at home prior to your appointment and leave a message for you on your answering machine or with an individual who responds to my telephone call. However, you may request that I provide such reminders only in a certain way or only at a certain place. I will endeavor to accommodate all reasonable requests.
- F. Treatment Options.** I may use and disclose your health information in order to inform you of alternative treatments.
- G. Release to Family/Friends.** Using my professional judgment, I may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, your health information to the extent it is relevant to that person's involvement in your care or payment related to your care. I will provide you with an opportunity to object to such a disclosure whenever I practicably can do so. I may disclose the health information of minor children to their parents or guardians unless such disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.
- H. Health-Related Benefits and Services.** I may use and disclose health information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you. In face-to-face communications, such as appointments, I may tell you about other products and services that may be of interest you.
- I. Newsletters and Other Communications.** I may use your personal information in order to communicate to you via newsletters, mailings, or other means regarding treatment options, health related information, disease management programs, wellness programs, or other community based initiatives or activities in which my practice is participating.
- J. Disaster Relief.** I may disclose your health information in disaster relief situations where disaster relief organizations seek your health information to coordinate your care, or notify family and friends of your location and condition. I will provide you with an opportunity to agree or object to such a disclosure whenever we practicably can do so.
- K. Marketing.** In most circumstances, I am required by law to receive your written authorization before we use or disclose your health information for marketing purposes. Under no circumstances will I sell my client lists or your health information to a third party without your written authorization.
- L. Public Health Activities.** I may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:



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- licensing and certification carried out by public health authorities;
- prevention or control of disease, injury, or disability;
- reports of births and deaths;
- reports of child abuse or neglect;
- notifications to people who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition;
- organ or tissue donation;
- notifications to appropriate government authorities if I believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. I will make this disclosure when required by law, or if you agree to the disclosure, or when authorized by law and in my professional judgment disclosure is required to prevent serious harm.

- M. *Psychotherapy Notes.*** Under most circumstances, without your written authorization I may not disclose the notes a mental health professional took during a counseling session. However, we may disclose such notes for treatment and payment purposes, for state and federal oversight of the mental health professional, for the purposes of medical examiners and coroners, to avert a serious threat to health or safety, or as otherwise authorized by law.
- N. *Research.*** I may disclose your health information to researchers when the information does not directly identify you as the source of the information or when a waiver has been issued by an institutional review board or a privacy board that has reviewed the research proposal and protocols for compliance with standards to ensure the privacy of your health information.
- O. *Workers Compensation.*** I may disclose your health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers compensation or other similar programs established by law.
- P. *Law Enforcement.*** I may release your protected health information:
- in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons, or similar process if authorized under state or federal law;
 - to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or similar person;
 - about the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, I am unable to obtain the person's agreement;
 - about a death I believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
 - about criminal conduct;
 - to coroners or medical examiners;
 - in emergency circumstances to report a crime, the location of the crime or victims, or the identity, description, or location of the person who committed the crime;
 - to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other
 - national security authorized by law (e.g. Patriot Act); and
 - to authorized federal officials so they may conduct special investigations or provide protection to the President, other authorized persons, or foreign heads of state.
- Q. *De-identified Information.*** I may use your protected health information to create "de-identified" information or we may disclose your information to a business associate so that the business associate can create de-identified information on my behalf. When I "de-identify" health information,



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I remove information that identifies you as the source of the information. Health information is considered "de-identified" only if there is no reasonable basis to believe that the health information could be used to identify you.

- R. *Personal Representative.*** If you have a personal representative, such as a legal guardian, I will treat that person as if that person is you with respect to disclosures of your health information. If you become deceased, I may disclose health information to an executor or administrator of your estate to the extent that person is acting as your personal representative.
- S. *Limited Data Set.*** I may use and disclose a limited data set that does not contain specific readily identifiable information about you for research, public health, and health care operations. I may not disseminate the limited data set unless I enter into a data use agreement with the recipient in which the recipient agrees to limit the use of that data set to the purposes for which it was provided, ensure the security of the data, and not identify the information or use it to contact any individual.

3. Authorization for Other Uses of Protected Health Information

Uses of protected health information not covered by the most current *Notice of Privacy Practices* or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization.

If you provide me with authorization to use or disclose protected health information about you, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization, I will no longer use or disclose protected health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization, except to the extent that I have already taken action in reliance on your authorization or, if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage and the insurer has the right to contest a claim or the insurance coverage itself. I am unable to take back any disclosures I have already made with your authorization, and I am required to retain records of the care that I provided to you.

4. Your Protected Health Information Rights

You have the following rights regarding the protected health information I gather about you:

- A. *Right to Obtain a Paper Copy of This Notice.*** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy.
- B. *Right to Review and Obtain Copy.*** In general, you have the right to view your protected health information that is my possession or to obtain copies of it. If I do not have your protected health information, but I know who does, I will advise you how you can obtain it. To review and obtain a copy of your protected health information, you must submit a written request. You will receive a response from me within 30 days of my receiving your written request. If you request a copy of your record, I may charge a reasonable fee for the costs of labor, postage, and supplies associated with your request (not more than \$0.25 cents per page). I may not charge you a fee if you require your information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state or federal needs-based benefit program. I



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may deny your request to inspect and obtain a copy in certain limited circumstances. If your request is denied, you will be given in writing the reasons for the denial, I will also explain your right to have my denial reviewed.

- C. Right to Amend.** If you feel that the protected health information I have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask me to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as I retain the information.

To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request. I may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, I may deny your request if you ask to amend information that:

- was not created by me, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
- is not part of the medical information kept by or for my practice;
- is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
- is accurate and complete.

If I deny your request for amendment, you may submit a statement of disagreement. I may reasonably limit the length of this statement. Your letter of disagreement will be included in your medical record, but I may also include a rebuttal statement.

- D. Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures of your health information made by myself. In your accounting, I am not required to list certain disclosures, including:

- disclosures made for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes or disclosures made incidental to treatment, payment, and health care operations;
- disclosures made pursuant to your authorization;
- disclosures made to create a limited data set;
- disclosures made directly to you.

To request an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you would like the accounting of disclosures (for example, on paper or electronically by e-mail). The first accounting of disclosures you request within any 12 month period will be free. For additional requests within the same period, I may charge you for the reasonable costs of providing the accounting of disclosures. I will notify you of the costs involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time, before any costs are incurred. Under limited circumstances mandated by federal and state law, I may temporarily deny your request for an accounting of disclosures.

- E. Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the protected health information I use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations. If you



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paid out-of-pocket for a specific item or service, you have the right to request that medical information with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations, and I am required to honor that request.

You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information I communicate about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care.

Except as noted above, I am not required to agree to your request. If I do agree, I will comply with your request unless the restricted information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing. In your request, you must tell me:

- what information you want to limit;
- whether you want to limit our use, disclosure, or both; and
- to whom you want the limits to apply.

F. Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that I communicate with you about treatment matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that I only contact you at work or by e-mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing. I will not ask you the reason for your request. I will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

G. Right to Receive Notice of a Breach. I am required to notify you by first class mail or by e-mail (if you have indicated a preference to receive information by e-mail), of any breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information as soon as possible, but in any event, no later than 60 days following the discovery of the breach.

“Unsecured Protected Health Information” is information that is not secured through the use of a technology or methodology identified by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to render the Protected Health Information unusable, unreadable, and undecipherable to unauthorized users. The notice is required to include the following information:

- a brief description of the breach, including the date of the breach and the date of its discovery, if known;
- a description of the type of Unsecured Protected Health Information involved in the breach;
- steps you should take to protect yourself from potential harm resulting from the breach;
- a brief description of actions we are taking to investigate the breach, mitigate losses, and protect against further breaches;
- contact information, including a toll-free telephone number, e-mail address, Web site or postal address to permit you to ask questions or obtain additional information.

In the event the breach involves 10 or more patients whose contact information is out of date I will post a notice of the breach on the home page of my website or in a major print or broadcast media. If the breach involves more than 500 patients in the state or jurisdiction, I will send notices to prominent media outlets. If the breach involves more than 500 patients, I am required to immediately notify the Secretary. I am also required to submit an annual report to the Secretary of a breach that involved less than 500 patients during the year and will maintain a written log of breaches involving less than 500 patients.



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5. Complaints

If, in your opinion, you believe your privacy rights have been violated, I encourage you that you address the issue with me. However, you may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201. To file a complaint with me, contact me at the contact information listed in this document. All complaints must be submitted in writing and should be submitted within 180 days of when you knew or should have known that the alleged violation occurred. See the Office for Civil Rights website, www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/ for more information.

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.



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Acknowledgment of Notice of Privacy Practices

I acknowledge receipt of the HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices, and I have had the opportunity to ask any questions I may have about it with Michael Juan.

Client Printed Name

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Signature

Date