

## Privacy Policy

It is the policy of our practice that all physicians and staff preserve the integrity and the confidentiality of protected health information (PHI) pertaining to our patients. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our practice and its physicians and staff provide the highest quality medical care possible while protecting the confidentiality of the PHI of our patients to the highest degree possible. Patients should not fear about providing information to our practice and its physicians and staff for purposes of treatment, payment, and healthcare operations (PHO). To that end, our practice and its physicians and staff will:

- Adhere to the standards set forth in the Notice of Privacy Practices.
- Collect, use and disclose PHI only in conformance with state and federal laws and current patient covenants and/or authorizations, as appropriate. Our practice and its physicians and staff will not use or disclose PHI for uses outside of practice's PHO, such as marketing, employment, life insurance applications, etc., without an authorization from the patient.
- Use and disclose PHI to remind patients of their appointments only within their consent.
- Recognize that PHI collected about patients must be accurate, timely, complete, and available when needed. Our practice and its physicians and staff will:
  - Implement reasonable measures to protect the integrity of all PHI maintained about patients.
- Recognize that patients have a right to privacy. Our practice and its physicians and staff respect the patient's individual dignity at all times. Our practice and its physicians and staff will respect patient's privacy to the extent consistent with providing the highest quality medical care possible and with the efficient administration of the facility.
- Act as responsible information stewards and treat all PHI as sensitive and confidential. Consequently, our practice and its physicians and staff will:
  - Treat all PHI data as confidential in accordance with professional ethics, accreditation standards, and legal requirements.
  - Not disclose PHI data unless the patient (or his or her authorized representative) has properly consented to or authorized the release or the release is otherwise authorized by law.
- Recognize that, although our practice "owns" the medical record, the patient has a right to inspect and obtain a copy of his/her PHI. In addition, patients have a right to request an amendment to his/her medical record if he/she believes his/her information is inaccurate or incomplete. Our practice and its physicians and staff will:
  - Permit patients access to their medical records when their written requests are approved by our practice. If we deny their request, then we must inform the patients that they may request a review of our denial. In such cases, we will have an on-site healthcare professional review the patients' appeals.
  - Provide patients an opportunity to request the correction of inaccurate or incomplete PHI in their medical records in accordance with the law and professional standards.
- All physicians and staff of our practice will maintain a list of all disclosures of PHI for purposes other than PHO for each patient. We will provide this list to patients upon request, so long as their requests are in writing.
- All physicians and staff of our practice will adhere to any restrictions concerning the use or disclosure of PHI that patients have requested and have been approved by our practice.
- All physicians and staff of our practice must adhere to this policy. Our practice will not tolerate violations of this policy. Violation of this policy is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment and criminal or professional sanctions in accordance with our practice's personnel rules and regulations.



Suburban Pediatric Associates, Inc. cares for patients from birth to early adulthood. We are eager to continue our relationship with you as your child makes the journey through adolescence. We will provide special time to allow your teenager to talk with us privately and discuss any concerns there might be. It's important that your child knows that we will uphold his or her confidence. It's also important that you and your child know that we will advise you of any behavior that might be life threatening.

In the following situations, the Privacy Rule reflects current professional practice in determining that the parent is not the minor's personal representative with respect to the relevant PHI:

- When a parent agrees to a confidential relationship between the minor and the physician, the parent does not have access to the health information related to that conversation or relationship. For example, if a physician asks the parent of a 16-year-old if the physician can talk with the child confidentially about a medical condition and the parent agrees, the parent would not control the PHI that was discussed during that confidential conference.
- When a physician (or other covered entity) reasonably believes in his or her professional judgment that the child has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect, or that treating the parent as the child's personal representative could endanger the child, the physician may choose not to treat the parent as the personal representative of the child.