

NEERA AGARWAL-ANTAL, M.D.

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: 04-14-03

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

Our Practice is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information. Our Practice is required to follow the privacy practices described in this Notice. This Notice describes how our Practice has extended certain protections to your protected health information (PHI) and how, when, and why we may use and disclose your PHI. With certain exceptions, our Practice will use or disclose your PHI in the minimum necessary manner to accomplish the intended purpose of the use or disclosure. Our Practice will share PHI as is necessary to provide quality health care and receive reimbursement for those services as permitted by law.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time. Changes will apply to medical information we already hold as well as new information after the change occurs. Before we make a change in our policies, we will change our notice and post a new notice in waiting areas, admissions/registration, and on our website. You can receive a copy of the current notice at any time. The effective date is listed just below the title. You will be offered a copy of the current notice each time you register at our facility for treatment. You will also be asked to acknowledge in writing your receipt of this notice.

You may view this Notice or any new notices on our website at <http://www.hudsonderm.com/>

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Our Practice is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of your health information. Your health information may be used and disclosed for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. Outside of these permitted uses, we will not disclose your health information without a signed authorization from you, unless the law permits or requires us to use or disclose this information without your authorization. You have the right to revoke that authorization in writing except to the extent any action has been taken in reliance on the authorization.

Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations. Except as otherwise provided, our Practice may use and disclose your health information for purposes of treatment, payment, and as otherwise necessary and permitted by law, for our health care operations. This may include disclosure to another health care provider who, at the request of your physician, becomes involved in your treatment, for purposes of approval of reimbursement from your health plan, or for audit purposes, we may disclose to our accountant or attorney.

Business Associates. It may be necessary for us to provide your health information to certain outside persons or entities that assist us with our health care operations, such as auditing, accreditation, legal

services, etc. These business associates are required to properly safeguard the privacy of your health information.

Appointments, Services, and Fundraising Efforts. We may contact you to provide appointment reminders, information about treatment alternatives, or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. We may contact you to support our fundraising efforts. You may opt-out of receiving any further fundraising communications from our facility by notifying our Privacy Officer in writing of your name, address, and request to be removed from our fundraising mailing and contact lists.

USE AND DISCLOSURES REQUIRING YOU TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT

Family and Friends. With your approval and using our professional judgment, your health information may be disclosed to designated family, friends, and others who are directly involved in your care or in the payment for your care. If you are unavailable, incapacitated, or in an emergency medical situation, and we determine that a limited disclosure may be in your best interest, we may share limited health information with such individuals without your approval.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI

We may use or disclose medical information about you without your prior authorization for several other reasons.

Subject to certain requirements, we may give out medical information about you without prior authorization for public health purposes, accrediting organizations such as JCAHO, required abuse or neglect reporting, health oversight audits or inspections, research studies, funeral arrangements and organ donations, worker's compensation purposes, and emergencies. We also disclose medical information when required by law, such as in response to a request from law enforcement in specific circumstances or in response to valid judicial or administrative orders.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

1. *Restrictions on Use and Disclosure of Individual Health Information.* You have the right to request that we restrict how we use and disclosure your health information. These restrictions must be made in writing and signed by you or your representative. Our Practice is not required to agree to your restrictions. We cannot agree to limit uses/disclosures that are required by law. In the event of a termination of an agreed-to restriction by us, we will notify you of such termination. You may terminate, in writing or orally, any agreed-to restriction by sending such termination notice to the Privacy Officer.

2. *Access to Individual Health Information.* You have the right to inspect and copy your health information. All such requests must be made in writing and signed by you or your representative. If you request copies, we may charge a fee for the cost of copying, mailing or other related supplies. There will also be a charge for postage if you request a mailed copy and, if requested, for preparation of a summary of the requested information. You may obtain a Request for Access form from the Privacy Officer. We will respond within 30 days unless an extension is taken. In certain circumstances, you may not be permitted access. Depending on the circumstances, you may request a review of the decision to deny access. If we deny your request, you will be given written notice that will explain the basis and your right to appeal.

3. ***Amendments to Individual Health Information.*** You have the right to request that your health information be amended or corrected. We will respond within 60 days unless an extension is taken. In certain cases, we may deny your request for amendment and you will be given written notice that will explain the basis and your right to appeal, which will be appended to your health information. You may also submit a statement of disagreement and we may prepare a rebuttal that will be provided to you. All amendment requests must be in writing, signed by you or your representative, and must state the reasons for the amendment. If we make an amendment, we may notify others who work with us and have copies of the un-amended record if we believe that such notification is necessary. You may obtain a Request for Amendment form from the Privacy Officer.

4. ***Accounting for Disclosures of Individual Health Information.*** You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your health information made by us after April 14, 2003. Requests must be made in writing and signed by you or your representative. Request for Accounting forms are available from the Privacy Officer. The first accounting in any 12-month period is free; you will be charged a fee for each subsequent accounting within the same twelve-month period. The right to receive this information is subject to certain exceptions, restrictions, and limitations.

5. ***Right to Paper Copy.*** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this or any revised Notice and/or an electronic copy by email upon request to our Practice's Privacy Officer.

6. ***Confidential Communications.*** You have the right to request that medical information about you be communicated to you in a confidential manner, such as sending mail to an address other than your home, by notifying us in writing of a specific way or location for us to use to communicate with you.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact our Practice's Privacy Officer.

How to Complain About Our Privacy Practices.

If you believe that we may have violated your privacy rights you may file a complaint with the Privacy Officer listed below. You may also file a written complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20201 or call 1-877-696-6775. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

Contact: Our Practice's Privacy Officer

If you have questions about this Notice or any complaints about our privacy practices, please contact our Privacy Officer at 1325 Corporate Drive, Suite A, Hudson, Ohio 44236. You may phone the Privacy Officer at (330) 650-4200.