

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES\*\*\* PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY**

Total Health Physical Therapy respects your privacy. We understand that your personal health information is very sensitive. We will not disclose your information to others unless you tell us to do so, or unless the law authorizes or requires us to. You will be notified if there is any breach in our security that puts your health information at risk.

The law protects the privacy of the health information we create and obtain in providing our care to you. For example, your protected health information includes your symptoms, diagnoses, treatment plan, health information from other providers, and billing and payment information. Federal and state law allows us to use and disclose your protected health information for purposes of treatment and health care operations. State law requires us to get your authorization to disclose this information for payment purposes.

### **Examples of Use and Disclosures of Protected Health Information for Treatment, Payment, and Health Operations**

For treatment:

- Information obtained by our health care team will be recorded in your medical record and used to help decide what care may be right for you.
- We may also provide information to others providing you care. This will help them stay informed about your care.

For payment:

- We request payment from your health insurance plan. Health plans need information from us about your medical care. Information provided to health plans may include your diagnoses, procedures performed, or recommended care.
- We may release medical billing information about you to a friend or family member who helps pay for your care.

For health care operations:

- We use your medical records to assess quality and improve services.
- We may use and disclose medical records to review the qualifications and performance of our health care providers and to train our staff.
- We may contact you to remind you about appointments and give you information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services.
- We may use and disclose your information to conduct or arrange for services, including:
  - Medical quality review by your health plan;
  - Accounting, legal, risk management, and insurance services;
  - Audit functions, including fraud & abuse detection & compliance.

## **Your Health information Rights**

The health and billing records we create and store are the property of the practice. The protected health information in it, however, generally belongs to you.

You have a right to:

- Receive, read and ask questions about this Notice;
- Ask us to restrict certain uses and disclosures. You must deliver this request in writing to us. We are not always required to grant the request. However, if you choose to pay cash for services here, you may request that we not disclose information to your health insurance and we must comply.
- Request and receive from us a paper copy of the most current Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information.
- Request that you be allowed to see and get a copy of your protected health information. You may make this request in writing.
- Have us review a denial of access to your health information except in certain circumstances;
- Ask us to change your health information. You may give us this request in writing. You may write a statement of disagreement if your request is denied. It will be stored in your medical record, and included with any release of your record.
- When you request, we will give you a list of disclosures of your health information. The list will not include disclosures to third party payers. You may receive this information without charge once every 12 months.
- Ask that your health information be given to you by another means or at another location. Please sign, date, and give us your request in writing.
- Cancel prior authorizations to use or disclose health information that has already been released. It also does not affect any action taken before we have it. Sometimes you cannot cancel an authorization if its purpose was to obtain insurance.

For help with these rights during normal business hours, please contact the Office Manager at (360)426-0175 or request a copy from the receptionist.

## **Our Responsibilities**

We are required to:

- Keep your protected health information private;
- Give you this Notice;
- Follow the terms of this Notice.

We have the right to change our practices regarding the protected health information we maintain. If we make changes, we will update this Notice. You may receive the most recent copy of this Notice by calling and asking for it or by visiting our office to pick one up.

## **To Ask for Help or Complain**

If you have questions, want more information, or want to report a problem about the handling of your protected health information, you may contact the Office Manager or Owner at (360)426-0175.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may discuss your concerns with any staff member. You may also deliver a written complaint to the Office Manager at our office. You may also file a complaint with the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

## **Other Disclosures and Uses of Protected Health Information**

### **Notification of Family and Others**

Unless you object, we may release health information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. We may tell your family or friends your condition. In addition, we may disclose health information about you to assist in disaster relief efforts.

You have the right to object to this use or disclosure of your information. If you object, we will not use or disclose it.

### **We may use and disclose your protected health information without your authorization as follows:**

- With Medical Researchers – if the research has been approved and has policies to protect the privacy of your health information. We may also share information with medical researchers preparing to conduct a research project.
- To Comply with Workers' Compensation Laws – if you make a workers' compensation claim.
- To Report Suspected Abuse or Neglect to public authorities.
- To Correctional Institutions if you are in jail or prison, as necessary for your health and the health and safety of others.
- For Law Enforcement Purposes such as when we receive a subpoena, court order, or other legal process, or you are the victim of crime.
- For Health and Safety Oversight Activities. For example, we may share health information with the Department of Health.
- For Disaster Relief Purposes. For example, we may share health information with disaster relief agencies to assist in notification of your condition to family or others.
- For Work-Related Conditions That Could Affect Employee Health. For example, an employer may ask us to assess health risks on a job site.
- To the Military Authorities of U.S. and Foreign Military Personnel. For example, the law may require us to provide information necessary to a military mission.
- In the Course of Judicial/Administrative Proceedings at your request, or as directed by a subpoena or court order.
- For Specialized Government Functions. For example, we may share information for national security purposes.
- For Public Health and Safety Purposes as Allowed or Required by Law;
  - To prevent or reduce a serious, immediate threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.
  - To public health or legal authorities
    - To protect public health and safety
    - To prevent or control disease, injury, or disability
    - To report vital statistics such as births or deaths

### **Other Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

- Uses and disclosures not in this Notice will be made only as allowed or required by law or with your written authorization.