

Notice of Privacy Practices

Doolin Vision Clinic

Effective Date 4-14-03

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.

Each time you visit a physician, hospital, or other healthcare provider, a record of your visit is made. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination, and test results, diagnoses, treatment, a plan for future care or treatment, and billing-related information. Your record represents Protected Health Information.

We are committed to treating and using Protected Health Information about you responsibly. This Notice describes the personal information we collect, and how and when we use or disclose that information. It also describes your rights as they relate to your Protected Health Information. This Notice applies to all Protected Health Information, as defined by federal regulations, which is generated by our office.

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES DESCRIBE EXAMPLES OF THE WAY WE USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION

For Treatment: We may use your health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. We will discuss your diagnoses and treatment options with you while you are in our office. We may disclose medical information about you to other health professionals who contribute to your care (such as doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you).

For Payment: We may use and disclose medical information about your treatment and services to bill and collect payment from you, your insurance company, or a third party payer. For example, we may need to give your insurance company information about your treatment so they will pay us for the treatment. We may also tell your health plan about treatment you are going to receive to determine whether your plan will cover it.

For Healthcare Operations (Business Associates): There are some services provided in our office through contracts with business associates. Examples include transcription of your dictated health information, a copy service making copies of your health records, billing for your services and off-site storage of medical records. When services such as these are contracted, we may disclose your health information to our business associates so that they can perform the job we've asked them to do. To protect your health information, however, we require the business associates to appropriately safeguard your information.

Communication with Family or Friends: We may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care or who helps you pay for your care.

We may also use and disclose medical information to/for the following:

- To remind you that you have an appointment
- To assess your satisfaction with our services
- Food and Drug Administration
- Organ and Tissue Donation Organizations
- Health Oversight Agencies
- Public Health Authorities
- Legal Authorities
- Military command Authorities
- National Security & Intelligence Agencies
- Proactive Services for the President
- For law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to subpoena

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS

Although your health record is the physical property of this office, you have the right to:

Inspect and Copy: You have the right to view your Protected Health Information, obtain a copy of the information, or both. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. We are allowed to charge you for these copies.

Amend: If you feel that medical information is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend (not change) the information. We may deny your request for an amendment and if this occurs, you will be notified of the reason for the denial.

An Accounting of Disclosures: You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we make of your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

Request Restrictions: You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree to the requested restriction, it will be honored with the exception of permitted disclosures, including emergency treatment, public health authority, Food & Drug Administration, work-related injury, and OSHA compliance.

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, at work, or by U.S. Mail). WE will grant this request only if it is submitted in writing. We reserve the right to contact you by other means and at another location if you fail to respond to any communication from us that requires a response.

A Paper Copy of This Notice: You may pick up a copy of this Notice at 417-A Racetrack Rd. NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact our Privacy Officer

We reserve the right to change this notice and to make the new provisions effective for all Protected Health Information we maintain from the first date of your health record. The current notice will be posted and include this effective date.

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint by contacting the Privacy Officer in our office at 417-A Racetrack Rd. NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

You may revoke your permission to use or disclose information about you, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. Please understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided you.