



Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describe how health information about you (as a patient/legal guardian) may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to your individually identifiable health information.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY

A. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

- Our facility is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your individually identifiable health information (IIHI). In conducting our business, we will create records regarding you and the treatment services we provide to you. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of health information that identifies you. We also are required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and the privacy practices that we maintain in our facility concerning your IIHI. By federal and state law, we must follow the terms of the notice of privacy practices that we have in effect at the time.
- We realize laws are complicated, but we must provide you with the following important information:
 - How we may use and disclose your IIHI
 - Your individual rights in your IIHI
 - Our obligations concerning the use and disclosure of your IIHI
- The terms of this notice apply to any and all records containing your IIHI that are created or retained by our facility. We reserve the right to revise or amend this Notice of Privacy Practices. Any revision or amendment to this notice will be effective for all of your records that our facility has created or maintained in the past, and for any of your records that we may create or maintain in the future. Our facility will post a copy of our current Notice in our offices at all times, and you may request a copy of our most current Notice at any time.

B. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Owner: Megan Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP at 872 62nd Street Court East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208

C. WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION (IIHI) IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

The following categories describe different ways in which we may use and disclose your IIHI

1. **Treatment:** Our facility may use your IIHI to treat you. For example, we may use test results to help us reach a diagnosis. Many of the people who work for our facility including but not limited to therapists, staff, may use or disclose your IIHI in order to treat you or to assist others in your treatment. Additionally, we may disclose your IIHI to other who may assist in your care, such as your spouse, children or parents.
2. **Payment:** Our facility may use and disclose your IIHI in order to bill and collect payment for the services and items you may receive from us. For example, we may contact your health insurer to certify that you are eligible for benefits (and for what range of benefits) and we may provide your insurer with details regarding your treatment to determine if your insurer will cover, or pay for, your treatment. We also may use and disclose your IIHI to obtain payments from third parties that may be responsible for such costs, such as family members. Also, we may use your IIHI to bill you directly for services and items.
3. **Health Care Operations:** Our facility may use and disclose your IIHI to operate our business. As examples of the ways in which we may use and disclose your information for our operations, our facility may use your IIHI to evaluate the quality of care you received from us, or to conduct sot-management business planning activities for our facility.
4. **Appointment Reminders:** Our facility may use and disclose your IIHI to contact you and remind you of an appointment.
5. **Release of Information to Family/Friends:** Our facility may release your IIHI to a friend or family member that is involved in your care, or who assists in taking care of you. For example, a parents or guardian may ask that a babysitter take their child to the facility for a treatment session. In this example, the babysitter may have access to the child's medical information.
6. **Disclosures Required By Law:** Our facility will use and disclose your IIHI when we are required to do so by federal, state or local law.

D. USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR IIHI IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The following categories describe unique scenarios in which we may use of disclose your identifiable health information:

1. **Public Health Risks:** Our facility may disclose your IIHI to public health authorities that are authorized by law to collect information for the purpose of:
 - Maintaining vital records, such as births and deaths;
 - Reporting child abuse or neglects;
 - Preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability;

- Notifying a person regarding potential exposure to a communicable disease;
- Notifying a person regarding a potential risk for spreading or contracting a disease or condition;
- Reporting reactions to drugs or problems with products of devices;
- Notifying individuals if a product or device they may be using has been recalled;
- Notifying appropriate government agency(ies) and authority(ies) regarding the potential abuse or neglect of an adult patient (including domestic violence); however, we will only disclose this information if the patient agree or we are required or authorized by law to disclose this information.

2. Health Oversight Activities

- Our facility may disclose your IIHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Oversight activities can include for example, investigations, inspections, audits, surveys, licensure, and disciplinary actions; civil, administrative, and criminal procedures or actions; or other activities necessary for the government to monitor government programs, compliance with civil rights law and the health care system in general.

3. Lawsuits and Similar Proceedings

- Our facility may use and disclose your IIHI in response to a court or administrative order, if you are involved in a lawsuit or similar proceeding. We also may disclose your IIHI in response to a discovery request, subpoena, or other lawful process by another party involved in the dispute, but only if we have made an effort to inform you of the request or to obtain an order protecting the information the party has requested.

4. Law Enforcement

We may release IIHI if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- Regarding a crime victim in certain situations, if we are unable to obtain the person's agreement;
- Concerning a death we believe has resulted from criminal conduct;
- Regarding criminal conduct at our offices;
- In response to a warrant, summons, court order, subpoena or similar legal process;
- To identify/locate a suspect, material witness, fugitive, or missing person; or
- In an emergency, to report a crime (including the location or victim(s) of the crime, or the description, identity of location of the perpetrator)

5. DECEASED PATIENTS

- Our facility may release IIHI to a medical examiner or coroner to identify deceased individual or to identify the cause of death. If necessary, we may also release information in order for funeral directors to perform their jobs.

6. SERIOUS THREATS TO HEALTH OR SAFETY

- Our facility may use of disclose your IIHI when necessary to reduce or prevent a serious threat to your health and safety of another individual or public. Under these circumstances, we will only make disclosures to a person or organization able to help prevent the threat.

7. MILITARY

- Our facility may disclose your IIHI if you are a member of U.S. or foreign military forces (including veterans) and if required by the appropriate authorities.

8. NATIONAL SECURITY

- Our facility may disclose your IIHI to federal officials for intelligence and national security activities authorized by law. We also may disclose your IIHI to federal officials in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state, or to conduct investigations.

9. INMATES

- Our facility may disclose your IIHI to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials if you are an inmate or under the custody of a law enforcement official. Disclosure for these purposes would be necessary: (a) for the institution to provide health care services to you, (b) for the safety and security of the institution, and/or (c) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals.

10. WORKERS COMPENSATION

- Our facility may release your IIHI for workers' compensation and similar programs.

E. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR IIHI

1. Confidential Communications

- You have the right to request that our facility communicate with you about your health and related issues in a particular manner or at a certain location. For instance, you may ask that we contact you at home, rather than work. In order to request a type of confidential communication, you must make a written request to the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208, specifying the requested method of contact, or location where you wish to be contacted. Our facility will accommodate **reasonable requests**. You do not need to give a reason for your request.

2. Requesting Restrictions

- You have the right to request a restriction in our use of disclosure of your IIHI for treatment, payment or health care operation. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your IIHI to only certain individuals involved in your care of the payment for your care, such as family members and friends. **We are not required to agree to your request;** however, if we do agree, we are bound by our agreement except when otherwise restricted by law, in emergencies, or when the information is necessary to treat you. In order to request a restriction in our use of disclosure of your IIHI, you must make your request in writing to the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208. Your request must describe in a clear and concise fashion:
 - The information you wish restricted
 - Whether you are requesting to limit our facility's use, disclosure or both; and
 - To whom you want the limits to apply

3. Inspection and Copies

- You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of the IIHI that may be used to make decisions about you, including patient medical records and billing records, but not including psychotherapy notes. You must submit your request in writing to the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL

34208, in order to inspect and/or obtain a copy of your IIHI. Our facility may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, labor, and supplies associated with your request. Our facility may deny your request to inspect and/or copy in certain limited circumstances; however you may request a review of our denial. Another licensed health care professional chosen by us will conduct reviews.

4. Amendment

- You may ask us to amend your health information if you believe it is incorrect or incomplete, and you may request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our facility. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing to the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208. You must provide us with a reason that supports your request for amendment. Our facility will deny your request if you fail to submit your request (and the reason supporting your request) in writing. Also, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that in our opinion (a) Accurate but not complete, (b) Not part of the IIHI kept by or for the facility (c) Not part of the IIHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy or (d) not created by our facility, unless the individual or entity that created the information is not available to amend the information.

5. Accounting of Disclosures

- All of our patients have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures." An "accounting of disclosures" is a list of certain non-routine disclosure our facility have made of your IIHI for non-treatment or operation purposes. Use of your IIHI as part of the routine patient care in our facility is not required to be documented. For example, the doctor sharing information with the nurse; or the billing department using your information to file your insurance claim. In order to obtain an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208. All request for an "accounting of disclosures" must state a time period, which may not be longer than six (6) years from the date of disclosure. The first list you request within a 12-month period is free of charge, but our facility may charge you for additional lists within the same 12-month period. Our facility will notify you of the costs involved with additional requests, as you may withdraw your request before you incur any costs.

6. Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice

- You are entitled to receive a paper copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208.

7. Right to File a Complaint

- If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our facility or with the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our facility, contact the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint

8. Right to Provide an Authorization for Other Uses and Disclosures

- Our facility will obtain your written authorization for uses and disclosures that are not identified by this notice or permitted by applicable law. Any authorization you provide to use regarding the use and disclosure of your IIHI may be revoked at anytime in writing. After you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your IIHI for the reasons described in the authorization. Please note, we are required to retain records of your care.

Again if you have any questions reading this notice or our health information privacy policies, please contact the Owner, Megan Nicole Simon, M.S. CCC-SLP, at 872 62nd Street Circle East, Suite 102, Bradenton, FL 34208.