

**Partners In Pediatrics, PLC**  
**4684 Wenmar Drive**  
**Saginaw, MI 48604**  
**989-793-6373**

## **HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

*Effective Date: April 14, 2003*

*Revised: December 22, 2014*

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE HIPAA PRIVACY OFFICER IDENTIFIED BELOW**

Your child's medical information is personal. We are committed to protecting your child's medical information. We create a record of the care and services you receive at this office. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This Notice applies to all of the records of your child's care generated by this office whether made by your child's personal physician or one of the office's employees.

This Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose your child's medical information. This Notice will also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of your child's medical information.

This office is required by law to:

- (1) make sure that medical information that identifies your child is kept private;
- (2) give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about your child; and
- (3) follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect.

### **HOW THIS OFFICE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL INFORMATION:**

The following describes the different ways that your child's medical information may be used or disclosed by this office. For clarification we have included some examples. Not every possible use or disclosure is specifically mentioned. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose your child's medical information will fit within one of these general categories:

**For Treatment:** We will use medical information about your child to provide your child with medical treatment and services. We may disclose medical information about your child to doctors, nurses, technicians and other office personnel who are involved in providing your child medical treatment.

**For Payment:** We may use and disclose medical information about your child so that the treatment and services your child receives at this office may be billed to and payment may be collected from your child's insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your child's health plan information about treatment your child received here so your child's health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the treatment. We may also tell your child's health plan about a treatment your child is going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your child's plan will cover the treatment. Parent/Guardian information may be sent to the collection agency, if required for collection purposes.

**For Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose medical information about your child for office operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our office and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use medical information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for your child. We may also combine medical information about many of our patients to decide what additional services the office should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, and other office personnel for review and learning purposes. We may remove information that identifies your child from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without learning the identity of the specific patients.

**Population Health Management:** We may use and disclose medical information to conduct normal healthcare operations such as population health management and quality assessments utilizing Allscripts Professional EHR and Wellcentive. We will also transmit de-identified data to MI Syndromic Surveillance System that tracks the chief complaint of patients to identify public health threats before confirmed diagnoses are available.

**Appointment Reminders:** We may use and disclose medical information to contact you as a reminder that your child has an appointment for treatment or medical care at this office. If you are not home we may leave this information on your personal answering machine or in a message left with the person answering the phone.

**Treatment Alternatives:** We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

## **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

We may use or disclose health information about your child without your permission for the following purposes, subject to all applicable legal requirements and limitations:

**Health-Related Benefits and Services:** We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest regarding your child.

**As Required By Law:** We will disclose medical information about your child when required to do so by federal, state or local law. For example, disclosure may be required by Workers' Compensation statutes and various public health statutes in connection with required reporting of certain diseases, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, adverse drug reactions, etc.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose medical information about your child when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your child's health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

**Health Oversight Activities:** We may disclose medical information to a governmental or other oversight agency for activities authorized by law. For example, disclosures of your child's medical information may be made in connection with audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure renewals, etc.

**Lawsuits and Disputes:** If your child is involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may use your child's medical information to defend the office or to respond to a court order. Subject to all applicable legal requirements, we may also disclose medical information about your child in response to a subpoena.

**Law Enforcement:** We may release medical information about your child if required by law when asked to do so by a law enforcement official.

**Coroners and Medical Examiners:** We may release medical information to a coroner or medical examiner to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.

**Public Health Risks:** We may disclose medical information about your child for public health reasons in order to prevent or control disease, injury or disability or report birth, death, suspected abuse or neglect, non-accidental physical injuries, or reactions to medications.

**Family and Friends:** We may disclose medical information about your child to your family members or friends, if we obtain your verbal or written agreement to do so, and if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. Our practice may release medical information about your child to a friend or family member that is involved in your child's care, or who assists in taking care of your child. For example, a parent or guardian may ask that a babysitter take their child to the pediatrician's office, for treatment of a cold. In this example the babysitter may have access to this child's medical information. We may also disclose health information to your family or friends if we can infer from the circumstances, based on our professional judgment that you would not object.

In situations where you are not capable of giving consent (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or medical emergency), we may, using our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your family member or friend is in your child's best interest. In that situation, we will disclose only health information relevant to the person's involvement in your child's care. For example, we may inform the person who accompanied your child to the emergency room that your child suffered an asthma attack and provide updates on your child's progress and prognosis. We may also use our professional judgment and experience to make reasonable inferences that it is in your child's best interest to allow another person to act on your behalf to pick up for example filled prescriptions, medical supplies or X-rays.

## **Uses and Disclosures Requiring an Authorization**

Other uses and disclosures of your child's medical information not covered by this Notice of Privacy Practices will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us such an authorization in writing to use or disclose medical information about your child, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time, except to the extent that we have acted in reliance of it. If you revoke your child's authorization, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about your child for the reasons covered by your written authorization. The following are examples of uses and disclosures requiring an authorization:

**Psychotherapy Notes:** If we maintain information which qualifies as "psychotherapy notes" as defined below, we must obtain an authorization for any use or disclosure of psychotherapy notes, except: (i) To carry out the following treatment, payment, or health care operations: (A) Use by the originator of the psychotherapy notes for treatment; (B) Use or disclosure by the covered entity for its own training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in mental health learn under supervision to practice or improve their skills in group, joint, family, or individual counseling; or (C) Use or disclosure by the covered entity to defend itself in a legal action or other proceeding brought by the individual; and (ii) A use or disclosure that is required by the Secretary of HHS to investigate or determine our compliance or permitted by law; uses and disclosures for health oversight activities with respect to the oversight of the originator of the psychotherapy notes; uses and disclosures about decedents; or uses and disclosures to avert a serious threat to health or safety of a person or the public. *Psychotherapy notes* means notes recorded (in any medium) by a health care provider who is a mental health professional documenting or analyzing the contents of conversation during a private counseling session or a group, joint, or family counseling session and that are separated from the rest of the individual's medical record. *Psychotherapy notes* excludes medication prescription and monitoring, counseling session start and stop times, the modalities and frequencies of treatment furnished, results of clinical tests, and any summary of the following items: diagnosis, functional status, the treatment plan, symptoms, prognosis, and progress to date.

**Marketing:** We are required by law to receive your written authorization before we use or disclose your child's health information for marketing purposes, except if the communication is in the form of: (A) a face-to-face communication made by us to you; or (B) a promotional gift of nominal value we provide. If the marketing involves direct or indirect remuneration to us from a third party, the authorization must state that such remuneration is involved. If the marketing involves financial remuneration to us from a third party, the authorization must state that such remuneration is involved.

**Sale of PHI:** Under no circumstances will we sell our patient lists or your child's health information to a third party without your written authorization. Such authorization must state that the disclosure will result in remuneration to the covered entity.

## **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL INFORMATION:**

You have the following rights regarding the medical information this office maintains about your child:

**Right to Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your child's medical information with the exception of any psychotherapy notes. To inspect and obtain a copy of your child's medical information, you must submit your request in writing to the HIPAA Privacy Officer. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and obtain a copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your child's medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. For information regarding such a review contact the HIPAA Privacy Officer. If your child's medical information is maintained in an electronic health record, you also have the right to request that an electronic copy of your child's record be sent to you or to another individual or entity. We may charge you a reasonable cost based fee limited to the labor costs associated with transmitting the electronic health record.

**Right to Amend:** If you feel that medical information we have about your child is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by this office.

To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the HIPAA Privacy Officer. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- (a) Was not created by us;
- (b) Is not part of the medical information kept by this office;
- (c) Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
- (d) Is accurate and complete.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:** You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” This is a list of the disclosures this office has made of your child’s medical information. We are not required to list certain disclosures, including disclosures made for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes or disclosures made incidental to treatment, payment, and health care operations; however, if these disclosures were made through an electronic health record, you have the right to request, beginning on dates established by law or regulation, an accounting for such disclosures that were made during the previous 3 years.

To request this accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the HIPAA Privacy Officer. Your child’s request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. We may charge you for the costs of providing the lists. We will notify you of the costs involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

**Right to Request Restrictions:** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the use or disclosure we make of your child’s medical information.

*We are not required to agree to your request for a restriction, except as noted below.* If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide your child emergency treatment.

We are required to agree to your request for a restriction if, except as otherwise required by law, the disclosure is to a health plan for purpose of carrying out payment or health care operations (and is not for purposes of carrying out treatment) and the medical information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which we have been paid out of pocket in full. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to the HIPAA Privacy Officer.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you regarding your child, only in a certain manner. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to the HIPAA Privacy Officer. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

**Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice:** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice. Even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this Notice. You may obtain a copy of this Notice at our website at the address listed below. To obtain a paper copy of this Notice, contact the HIPAA Privacy Officer.

**Right to Receive Notice of Discovery of a Breach of Unsecured Protected Health Information:** We are required to notify you of any breach of unsecured protected health information concerning your child following the discovery of the breach when required by regulation.

## **REVISIONS TO THIS NOTICE:**

We reserve the right to revise this Notice. Any revised Notice will be effective for medical information we already have about your child as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of any revised Notice in this office. Any revised Notice will contain on the first page, the effective date. In addition, each time you visit the office you may request a copy of the current Notice in effect.

## **COMPLAINTS:**

If you believe your child’s privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with this office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with this office, contact:

HIPAA Privacy Officer at 989-793-6373  
Partners In Pediatrics PLC  
4684 Wenmar Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48604

Our website address is [www.partnersinpeds.org](http://www.partnersinpeds.org)

All complaints must be submitted in writing.

**THIS OFFICE WILL NOT PENALIZE YOU IN ANY WAY FOR FILING A COMPLAINT.**