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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This Notice describes how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

This Notice describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to provide treatment, obtain payment and conduct health care operations and for other purposes permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights concerning your protected health information. "Protected health information" is information about you, including demographic information that may identify you and relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

We are required by law to follow the practices described in this Notice. We may change the terms of this Notice at any time. The new Notice will be effective for all protected health information we maintain at that time including health information we created or received before we made the changes.

Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

Treatment: We will use and disclose your health information to provide, coordinate and manage health care and related services for you. For example we will disclose information to a specialist to whom you have been referred to ensure the provider has enough information to diagnose and/or treat you. We may also disclose information to a laboratory that, at our request, becomes involved in your treatment.

Payment: We may use and disclose your information to obtain payment for services we provided to you. For example we will send the necessary information to your health or dental insurance company to obtain payment for the treatment provided.

Healthcare Operations: We will use and disclose your health information to conduct the business activities of this office. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment and improvement activities, review of the performance and qualifications of employees, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities. We may call you by name in the waiting room when we are ready to begin your treatment. We also make reminder phone calls and may leave messages on the answering machine or with whoever answers the phone. We also may send reminder postcards. Our office does family billing as well.

We will share your protected health information with business associates that perform specific functions for our practice such as billing. When a business arrangement of this type requires the use of your information, we will have a written contract with the third party to protect the privacy of your protected health information.

Others Involved in Your Health Care: We must disclose your health information to you as described in the Patient Rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member or other person to the extent necessary to help with your health care or with payment for your health care, but only if you agree. If we determine it is in your best interest based on our professional judgement or experience with common practices, we may allow another person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays or other forms of health information.

We may use or disclose protected health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, a personal representative or any other person responsible for your care of your location, your general