

COLUMBUS EYE CLINIC & LASER SURGERY CENTER

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

We understand that your health information is personal to you, and we are committed to protecting the information about you. This Notice of Privacy Practice (or "Notice") describes how we will use and disclose protected information and data that we receive or create related to your health care.

Our Duties

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information, and to give you this Notice describing our legal duties and privacy practices. We are also required to follow the terms of the Notice currently in effect.

How We May Use and Disclose Health Information About You

We will not use or disclose your health information without your authorization, except in the following situations:

Treatment: We will use and disclose your health information while providing, coordinating or managing your health care. For example, information obtained by a nurse, physician, or other member of your healthcare team will be recorded in your record and used to determine the course of treatment that should work best for you. Your physician will put in your record his or her expectations of the members of your healthcare team. Members of your healthcare team will then record the actions they took and their observations. In the way, the physician will know how you are responding to treatment. We may also provide other healthcare providers with your information to assist him or her in treating you.

Payment: We may send a bill to you or your health plan. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you, as well as your diagnosis, procedures, and supplies used. As another example, we may disclose information about you to your health plan so that the health plan may determine your eligibility for payment for certain benefits.

Health Care Operations: We will use and disclose your health information to deal with certain administrative aspects of your health care, and to manage our business more efficiently. For example, members of our medical staff may use information in your health record to assess the quality of care and outcomes in your case and others like it. This information will then be used in an effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of the healthcare and services we provide.

Business Associates: There are some services provided in our organization through contracts with business associates. We may disclose your health information to our business associate so they can perform the job we've asked them to do. However, we require the business associate to take precautions to protect your health information.

Notification of Family: We may use or disclose information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative, or other person responsible for your care of your location and general condition.

Communication With Family: We may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care.

Research: Consistent with applicable law we may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

Funeral Director, Coroner, and Medical Examiner: Consistent with applicable law we may disclose health information to funeral directors, coroners, and medical examiners to help them carry out their duties.

Organ Procurement Organizations: Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose to the FDA health information relative to adverse events, product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Public Health: As required by law, we may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including child abuse and neglect.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: We may disclose your health information to appropriate governmental agencies, such as adult protective or social services agencies, if we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

Health Oversight: In order to oversee the health care system, government benefits programs, entities subject to governmental regulation and civil rights laws for which health information is necessary to determine compliance, we may disclose your health information for oversight activities authorized by law, such as audits and civil, administrative, or criminal investigations.

Court Proceeding: We may disclose your health information in response to requests made during judicial and administrative proceedings, such as court orders or subpoenas.

Law Enforcement: Under certain circumstances, we may disclose your health information to law enforcement officials. These circumstances include reporting required by certain laws (such as the reporting of certain types of wounds), pursuant to certain subpoenas or court orders, reporting limited information concerning identification and location at the request of a law enforcement official, reports regarding suspected victims of crimes at the request of a law enforcement official, reporting death, crimes on our premises, and crime in emergencies.

Inmates: If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release health information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institutions.

Threats to Public Health or Safety: We may disclose or use health information when it is our good faith belief, consistent with ethical and legal standards, that it is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat or is necessary to identify or apprehend an individual.