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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This notice describes how your medical information may be used & disclosed, and how you can access it. Please review it carefully.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a federal program that requires that all medical records and other individually identifiable health information used or disclosed by us in any form, whether electronically, on paper, or orally are kept properly confidential. This Act gives you, the patient, significant new rights to understand and control how your health information is used.

“HIPAA” provides penalties for covered entities that misuse personal health information.

As required by “HIPAA”, we have prepared this explanation of how we are required to maintain the privacy of your health information and how we may use and disclose your health information.

We may use and disclose your medical records only for each of the following purposes: treatment, payment and health care operations.

- Treatment means providing, coordinating, or managing health care and related services by one or more health care providers. An example of this would include a physical examination.
- Payment means such activities as obtaining reimbursement for services, confirming coverage, billing or collection activities, and utilization review. An example of this would be sending a bill for your visit to your insurance company for payment.
- Health care operations include the business aspects of running our practice, such as conducting quality assessment and improvement activities, auditing functions, cost-management analysis, and customer service for example an internal quality assessment review.

We may also create and distribute de-identified health information by removing all references to individually identifiable information.

We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services the may be of interest to you.

Any other uses and disclosures will be made only with written authorization. Your may revoke such authorization in writing and we are required to honor and abide by that written request, except to the extent that we have already taken actions relying on your authorization.

You have the following rights with respect to your protected health information, which you can exercise by presenting a written request to us.

- The right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information, including those related to disclosures to family members, other relatives, close personal friends, or any other person identified by you. We are, however, not required to agree to a requested restriction. If we do agree to a restriction, we must abide by it unless you agree in writing to remove it.
- The right to reasonable requests to receive confidential communications of protected health information from us by alternative means or at alternative locations.
- The right to inspect and copy your protected health information.
- The right to amend your protected health information.
- The right to receive an accounting of disclosures of protected health information.
- The right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us upon request.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. This notice is effective as of April 15, 2003.

And we are required to abide by the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practices and to make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain. We will post and you may request a written copy of a revised Notice of Privacy Practices from this office.

You have recourse if you feel that your privacy protections have been violated. You have the right to file written complaint with our office, or with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, about violations of the provisions of this notice or the policies and procedures of our office. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

HIPAA has been amended by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The patient can bar us from disclosing protected health information (PHI) to their health plans if the patient pays for the item or service in full out of pocket. Patients can direct us to transmit a copy of their information to a designated entity or person, provided that they make their choice "clear, conspicuous, and specific." Your privacy is our major concern. We take all steps to avoid unauthorized release of your PHI.

Please contact us at Skin & Allergy Clinic, 4761 Higbee Ave, NW, Canton, OH 44718-2551, or Call 330-492-1117 for additional information

For more information about HIPAA or to file a complaint, please contact : The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 (202) 619-0257 Toll Free: 1-877-696-6775

We have an Identity Theft Prevention Program in effect pursuant to the Federal Trade Commission's Red Flags Rule. We would not disclose any of your information without your "clear, conspicuous, and specific." written authorization.