

Privacy Notice Document (HIPAA) 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. This Privacy Notice is being provided to you as a requirement of a federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This Privacy Notice describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your right to access and control your protected health information. Your “protected health information” means any written or oral information about you, including demographic data that can be used to identify you, created or received by your health care provider, which relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition.

This surgery center participates in organized health care arrangements with anesthesia providers credentialed at the center. All health care services delivered as part of this organized health care arrangement take place here in the surgery center. Wherever the term “we” is used in this notice, it refers to this organized health care arrangement. We may use your protected health information for the purposes of providing treatment, obtaining payment for treatment, and conducting health care operations. Your protected health information may be used or disclosed only for these purposes unless we have obtained your authorization or the use or disclosure is permitted or required by the HIPAA regulations or other law. Disclosures of your protected health information for the purposes described in this Privacy Notice may be made in writing, orally, or by electronic means. **1. Treatment.** We will use and disclose your protected healthcare information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and related services, including coordination and management with third parties for treatment purposes. Here are some examples of how we may use or disclose your protected health information for treatment:

- a. We may disclose your protected health information to a laboratory to order tests.
- b. We may disclose your protected health information to other physicians who may be treating you or consulting with us regarding your care.
- c. We may disclose your protected health information to those who may be involved in your care after you leave here, such as family members or your personal representative.

2. Payment. We will use your protected health information to obtain payment for the services we provide to you. We may also disclose your protected health information to another provider involved in your care for their payment activities. Here are some examples of how we may use or disclose your protected health information for payment:

- a. We may communicate with your health insurance company to get approval for the services we render, to verify your health insurance coverage, to verify that particular services are covered under your insurance plan, and to demonstrate medical necessity.
- b. We may disclose your protected health information to

We may also disclose your protected health information to another provider involved in your care for their payment activities. Here are some examples of how we may use or disclose your protected health information for payment:

- a. We may communicate with your health insurance company to get approval for the services we render, to verify your health insurance coverage, to verify that particular services are covered under your insurance plan, and to demonstrate medical necessity.
- b. We may disclose your protected health information to anesthesia care providers involved in your care so they can obtain payment for their services.

3. Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your protected health information to facilitate our own health care operations and to provide quality care to all of our patients. Health care operations include such activities as: quality assessment and improvement; employee review activities; conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance reviews; business planning and development; and business management and general administrative activities. In certain situations, we may also disclose your protected health information to another provider or health plan for their health care operations. Here are some examples of how we may use or disclose your protected health information for health care operations:

- a. We may use your protected health information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you.
- b. We may combine protected health information about many patients to decide what additional services we should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective.
- c. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, and other
- d. We may also use or disclose your protected health information in the course of maintenance and management of our electronic health information systems.

4. Other Uses and Disclosures. As part of the functions above, we may use or disclose your protected health information to provide you with appointment reminders, to inform you of treatment alternatives, or to provide you with information about other health-related benefits and services which may be of interest to you.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Permitted without Authorization or Opportunity for

the Individual to Object

The federal privacy rules allow us to use or disclose your protected health information without your authorization and without your having the opportunity to object to such use or disclosure in certain circumstances, including: **1. When Required By Law.** We will disclose your protected health information when we are required to do so by federal, state, or local law. **2. For Public Health Reasons.** We may disclose your protected health information as permitted or required by law

2. For the following public health reasons:

- a. For the prevention, control, or reporting of disease, injury or disability;
- b. For the reporting of vital events such as birth or death;
- c. For public health surveillance, investigations, or interventions;
- d. For purposes related to the quality, safety, or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products or activities, including:
 - Collection and reporting of adverse events, product defects or problems, or biological product deviations.
 - Tracking of FDA-regulated products.
 - Product recalls, repairs, or look back.
 - Post-marketing surveillance.

e. To notify a person who has been exposed to a communicable disease or who may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition;

f. Under certain limited circumstances, to report to an employer information about an individual who is a member of the employer's workforce.

3. To Report Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence. We may notify government authorities if we believe a patient is a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will make this disclosure only when specifically authorized or required by law, or when the patient agrees to the disclosure. **4. For Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose your protected health information to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law, including audits; civil, administrative, or criminal investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; civil, administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions; or other activities necessary for appropriate oversight. **5. For Judicial or Administrative Proceedings.** We may disclose your protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal as expressly authorized by such order. We may disclose your protected health information in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process that is not accompanied by an order of a court or administrative tribunal if we have received satisfactory assurances that you have been notified of the request or that an effort has been made to secure a protective order. **6. For Law Enforcement Purposes.** We may disclose your protected health information to a law enforcement official for law enforcement purposes, including:

- a. Wound or physical injury reporting, as required by law.
- b. In compliance with, and as limited by the relevant requirements of a court order or court-ordered warrant, a subpoena, summons, or similar process.
- c. Identification or location of a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person.
- d. Under certain limited circumstances when you are the victim of a crime.
- e. Alerting law enforcement of the death of an individual where there is suspicion that the death may have resulted from criminal conduct.
- f. Reporting criminal conduct that occurred on the premises of the provider.
- g. In an emergency to report a crime.

7. To Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors. We may disclose protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for the purpose of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death, or other duties as authorized by law. We may disclose protected health information to funeral directors, consistent with applicable law, as necessary to carry out their duties with respect to the decedent. In some cases such disclosures may occur prior to, and in reasonable anticipation of, the individual's death. **8. For Organ or Tissue Donation.** We may use or disclose protected health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes, or tissue for the purpose of facilitating donation and transplant. **9. For Research Purposes.** We may use or disclose your protected health information for research purposes when an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and protocols to safeguard the privacy of your protected health information has approved such use or disclosure. **10. To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may, consistent with applicable law and standards of ethical conduct, use or disclose your protected health information if we believe, in good faith, that such use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your health and safety or that of the public. **11. For Specialized Government Functions.** We may use or disclose your protected health information, as authorized or required by law, to facilitate specified government functions related to military and veterans activities; national security and intelligence activities; protective services for the President and others; medical suitability determinations;

correctional institutions and other law enforcement custodial situations. **12. For Workers' Compensation.** We may use and disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to comply with workers' compensation laws or similar programs.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Permitted without Authorization but with an Opportunity for the Individual to Object

We may use your protected health information to maintain a directory of patients in our facility. The information included in the directory will be limited to your name, your location in our facility, and your condition described in general terms. We may disclose your protected health information to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care or payment for care. In addition, if applicable, we may disclose medical information about you to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location. You may object to these disclosures. If you do not object to these disclosures, or we determine in the exercise of our professional judgment that it is in your best interest for us to disclose information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with your care, we may disclose your protected health information.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information which You Authorize

Other than the uses and disclosures described above, we will not use or disclose your protected health information without your written authorization. Authorizations are for specific uses of your protected health information, and once you give us authorization, any disclosures we make will be limited to those consistent with the terms of the authorization. You may revoke your authorization, by submitting a revocation in writing, at any time, except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance upon your authorization.

Your Rights Regarding Your Protected Health Information

You have the right to express complaints to us and to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services if you believe that your privacy rights have been violated. If you wish to complain to us, please do so in writing, and direct your complaint to the Privacy Officer. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

Contact Information:

If you feel your privacy has been violated, have privacy issues or want to know more about this privacy statement please contact:

**Privacy Officer: Sheena Peach
904-264-0400
1564 Kingsley Ave
Orange Park, FL. 32073**