



HIPPA Notice of Privacy Practices

Dear employee:

We realize how important it is to you that we keep your personal medical information confidential. We have always worked hard to protect your information from misuse, and will continue to work even harder to protect it in the future.

To that end, we are implementing all of the privacy protections granted to you through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA). The accompanying document, our Notice of Privacy Practices, lays out for you your rights under HIPPA as well as the types of uses and disclosures that our health plan may make with your health information.

As the HIPPA Privacy Officer for our health plan, I want you to always feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns you have about the privacy of your confidential health information. It is my job as the HIPPA privacy expert to make sure that your personal information is protected from misuse and I want you to feel that you always have a place to go to get your questions answered about your medical information privacy or about the HIPPA regulations.

Please review the Notice of Privacy Practices and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,
Cindy Gregory

HIPPA Privacy Officer 952-496-5014

Please sign, date and return this letter to me at the district office.

Employee Signature _____ **Date:** _____

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.

The Health Insurance Portability & 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 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 case management.
- Payment means such activities as obtaining reimbursement for services, confirming coverage, billing or collection activities, and utilization review. An example of this would be adjudicating a claim and reimbursing a provider for an office visit.
- Health care operations means such business-related activities as conducting quality assessment and improvement activities, auditing functions, cost-management analysis, and customer service. An example would be 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 information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Any other uses and disclosures will be made only with your written authorization. You 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 the Privacy Officer:

- 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 not, however, 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 non-routine disclosures of protected health information.
- We have the obligation to provide and you have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us at least every three years.

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, 2004 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 a formal, written complaint with us at the address below, or with the Department of Health & Human Services, Office for 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.

Please contact us for more information:

Privacy Officer:

Shakopee Schools 720 – Cindy Gregory
505 South Holmes Street
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 496-5014

For more information about HIPAA

or to file a complaint:

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Office for Civil Rights
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
(202) 619-0257
Toll Free: 1-877-696-6775