

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: July 1, 2003

Burlington Physical Therapy
1186 S. Burlington Blvd.
Burlington, WA 98233 360-757-9018

THIS NOTE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the accounts manager at (360) 757-9018.

WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE

This notice describes *Burlington Physical Therapy* and that of:

- 1) Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your chart.
- 2) All departments of the practice.
- 3) Any member of a volunteer group at our practice.
- 4) All employees, staff and other practice personnel.

All these entities follow the terms of this notice. In addition, these entities may share health information with each other for treatment, payment, of health care operations purposes described in this notice.

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. We are committed to protecting medical information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive at the practice. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by this health care practice, whether made by your physicians or others working in this office.

Washington State Law governs a patient's right of access to their healthcare information maintained by a healthcare provider. We are required by law to:

- 1) Make sure that your medical information is kept private.
- 2) Give a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your medical information.
- 3) Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION AS FOLLOWS:

All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the following categories.

For Treatment: We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to other staff who are involved in taking care of you in our practice. We may also 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.

For Payment: We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at our practice may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company, or a third party.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose medical information about you for operations of our health care practice. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our practice and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care delivery without learning who our specific patients are.

To Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care: We may release medical information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your medical care.

For Health-Related Services and Treatment Alternatives: We may use and disclose health information to tell you about health-related services or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

As Required By Law: We will disclose information about you when required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: Any disclosure of your health information would only be to someone who was able to help prevent a threat against the health or safety of any individual.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Military and Veterans: If you are a member of the Armed Forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release medical information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

To Comply with Worker's Compensation Laws: If you make a worker's compensation claim, we may release information about you to anyone who is working with your claim.

For Public Health Risks: We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:

- 1) To prevent or control disease, injury or disability.
- 2) To report births or deaths.
- 3) To report child abuse or neglect.
- 4) To report reactions to medications or problems with products.
- 5) To notify people of recalls of products they may be using.
- 6) To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease.
- 7) To notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make the disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

For Health Oversight Activities as Authorized by Law: These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and Disputes: If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose your medical information in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose medical information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

For Law Enforcement: We may release your information for purposes such as when we receive a subpoena, court order, or other legal processes. We may also release your information if you are a victim of a crime or have been involved in a crime.

To Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors: We may release your medical information consistent with applicable laws allowing these people to carry out their duties.

To Authorized Federal Officials for National Security and Intelligence Activities: We may release your medical information about you for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

To Authorized Federal Officials for Protective Services for the President and Others: We can disclose your information to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President or any other authorized individuals.

To Correctional Institutions if you are in Jail or Prison: We may release your medical information as necessary for your health and the health and safety of others.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

Right to Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes medical and billing records.

You must submit your request in writing to Burlington Physical Therapy. We may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies and services associated with your request. The cost of copying will be given to you upon your request of copies. You will receive your copy within 15 days of receipt of your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed health care professional chosen by the practice will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to Amend: If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by the practice.

Your request must be made to us in writing. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- 1) Was not created by us, unless the party that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment.
- 2) Is not part of the medical information kept by this practice.
- 3) Is not part of the information, which you would be permitted to inspect and copy.
- 4) Is accurate and complete.

Any amendment made to your information will be disclosed to those with whom we disclose information as previously specified.

You have the right to request a list accounting for any disclosures of your medical information we have made, except for uses and disclosures for treatment, payment, and health care operations, as previously described.

You must submit your request in writing to Burlington Physical Therapy. Your request must state a time period, which may not be longer than seven years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list.

Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to restrict certain uses and disclosures of your health and billing records. You must deliver this request in writing to us.

In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure, or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply. However, we are not required to agree with your request.

Right to Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location.

You must make your request to us in writing. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

Right to Paper Copy of this Notice: You have the right to a paper copy of this notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact Burlington Physical Therapy at (360) 757-9018.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice in our facility. The notice will contain the effective date on the first page, second line from the top.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with the practice, contact the accounts manager at (360) 299-2781. All complaints must be submitted in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

OTHER USES OF MEDICAL INFORMATION

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Burlington Physical Therapy "Notice of Privacy Practices."

Patient or Personal Representative Signature

Date