

Schneider Chiropractic & Wellness
81 Glen Rd, Garner, NC, 27529
(919) 661-2225
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.**

If you have any questions about this Notice please contact our Privacy Officer or any staff member in our office. Our Privacy Officer is Jessica Hassell.

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out your treatment, collect payment for your care and manage the operations of this clinic. It also describes our policies concerning the use and disclosure of this information for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. "Protected Health Information" (PHI) is information about you, including demographic information that may identify you, that relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

We are required by federal law to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. We may change the terms of our notice at any time. The new notice will be effective for all protected health information that we maintain at that time. You may obtain revisions to our Notice of Privacy Practices by asking for one at the time of your next appointment.

YOUR RIGHTS

Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record: This means you may inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about you that is contained in a designated record set for as long as we maintain the protected health information. A "designated record set" contains medical and billing records and any other records that your doctor and the Practice uses for making decisions about you.

Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records; psychotherapy notes; information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, and protected health information that is subject to law that prohibits access to protected health information. Depending on the circumstances, a decision to deny access may be reviewed. In some circumstances, you may have a right to have this decision reviewed. Please contact our Privacy Officer, if you have questions about access to your medical record.

We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct your medical record: This means you may request an amendment of protected health information about you in a designated record set for as long as we maintain this information. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If so, we'll tell you why in writing within 60 days. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal. Please contact our Privacy Officer if you have questions about amending your medical record.

Request confidential communications: We will accommodate reasonable requests. We may also condition this accommodation by asking you for information as to how payment will be handled or specification of an alternative address or other method of contact. We will not request an explanation from you as to the basis for the request. Please make this request in writing.

Ask us to limit what we use or share: This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You have the right to restrict certain disclosures of Protected Health Information to a health plan when you pay out of pocket in full for the healthcare delivered by our office. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must be in writing and state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply. You may opt out of fundraising communications in which our office participates.

Your provider is not required to agree to a restriction that you may request. If the doctor believes it is in your best interest to permit use and disclosure of your protected health information, your protected health information will not be restricted. If your doctor does agree to the requested restriction, we may not use or disclose your protected health information in violation of that restriction unless it is needed to provide emergency treatment. With this in mind, please discuss any restriction you wish to request with your doctor.

You may request a restriction by presenting your request, in writing to the staff member identified as "Privacy Officer" at the top of this form. The Privacy Officer will provide you with "Restriction of Consent" form. Complete the form, sign it, and ask that the staff provide you with a photocopy of your request initialed by them. This copy will serve as your receipt.

Get a list of those with whom we've shared information: This right applies to disclosures for purposes other than treatment, payment or healthcare operations as described in this Notice of Privacy practices. It excludes disclosures we may have made to you, to family members or friends involved in your care, pursuant to a duly executed authorization or for notification purposes. You have the right to receive specific information regarding these disclosures that occurred after April 14, 2003. The right to receive this information is subject to certain exceptions, restrictions and limits. We'll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

Get a copy of this privacy notice: You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

Choose someone to act for you: If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

YOUR CHOICES

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures That May Be Made With Your Authorization or Opportunity to Object

In the following instance where we may use and disclose your protected health information, you have the opportunity to agree or object to the use or disclosure of all or part of your protected health information. If you are not present or able to agree or object to the use or disclosure of the protected health information, then your doctor may, using professional judgment, determine whether the disclosure is in your best interest. In this case, only the protected health information that is relevant to your health care will be disclosed.

Others Involved in Your Healthcare: Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your protected health information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment. We may use or disclose protected health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or any other person that is responsible for your care of your location or general condition. Finally, we may use or disclose your protected health information to an authorized public or private entity to assist in disaster relief efforts and to coordinate uses and disclosures to family or other individuals involved in your health care.

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

By applying to be treated in our office, you are implying consent to the use and disclosure of your protected health information by your doctor, our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you. Your protected health information may also be used and disclosed to bill for your health care and to support the operation of the practice.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Based Upon Your Implied Consent

Following are examples of the types of uses and disclosures of your protected health care information we will make, based on this implied consent. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive but to describe the types of uses and disclosures that may be made by our office.

- **Treatment:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third party that has already obtained your permission to have access to your protected health information. For example, we would disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to another physician who may be treating you. Your protected health information may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred to ensure that the physician has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you. In addition, we may disclose your protected health information from time-to-time to another physician or health care provider (e.g., a specialist or laboratory) who, at the request of your doctor, becomes involved in your care by providing assistance with your health care diagnosis or treatment.
- **Run our organization:** We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of this office. These activities may include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities and training of chiropractic students. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your doctor. Communications between you and the doctor or his assistants may be recorded to assist us in accurately capturing your responses; we may also call you by name in the reception area when your doctor is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment. We may also contact you by automated equipment relative to clinic offers, appointments, etc. We do have open therapy/adjusting areas.

We will share your protected health information with third party "business associates" that perform various activities (e.g., billing, transcription services for the practice). Whenever an arrangement between our office and a business associate involves the use or disclosure of your protected health information, we will have a written contract with that business associate that contains terms that will protect the privacy of your protected health information.

We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to provide you with information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. We may also use and disclose your protected health information for other internal marketing activities. For example, your email may be used to send you a newsletter

and health related articles. Your name and address may be used to send you a birthday card, health related information, billing information, and invoices. We may also send you information about products or services that we believe may be beneficial to you. You may contact our Privacy Officer to request that these materials not be sent to you.

- **Bill for your services:** Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. This may include certain activities that your health insurance plan may undertake before it approves or pays for the health care services we recommend for you such as making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, reviewing services provided to you for medical necessity, and undertaking utilization review activities. For example, obtaining approval for chiropractic spinal adjustments may require that your relevant protected health information be disclosed to the health plan to obtain approval for those services.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information That May Be Made Only With Your Written Authorization

Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information will be made only with your written authorization, unless otherwise permitted or required by law as described below.

- disclosures of psychotherapy notes
- uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information for marketing purposes;
- disclosures that constitute a sale of Protected Health Information;
- Other uses and disclosures not described in the Notice of Privacy Practices will be made only with authorization from the individual.

You may revoke any of these authorizations, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your doctor or the practice has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

How else can we use or share your health information? We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes.

For more information: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html

Help with public health and safety issues: We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities and purposes to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information. The disclosure will be made for the purpose of controlling disease, injury or disability. We may also disclose your protected health information, if directed by the public health authority, to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

Communicable Diseases: We may disclose your protected health information, if authorized by law, to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading the disease or condition

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. In addition, we may disclose your protected health information if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to the governmental entity or agency authorized to receive such information. In this case, the disclosure will be made consistent with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

Law Enforcement: We may also disclose protected health information, so long as applicable legal requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes. These law enforcement purposes include (1) legal process and otherwise required by law, (2) limited information requests for identification and location purposes, (3) pertaining to victims of a crime, (4) suspicion that death has occurred as a result of criminal conduct, (5) in the event that a crime occurs on the premises of the Practice, and (6) medical emergency (not on the Practice's premises) and it is likely that a crime has occurred.

Workers' Compensation: We may disclose your protected health information, as authorized, to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar legally-established programs.

Required Uses and Disclosures: Under the law, we must make disclosures to you and when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of Section 164.500 et. seq.

Required by law: We may use or disclose your protected health information to the extent that the use or disclosure is required by law. The use or disclosure will be made in compliance with the law and will be limited to the relevant requirements of the law. You will be notified, as required by law, of any such uses or disclosures.

Respond to lawsuits and legal actions: We may disclose protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding, in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal (to the extent such disclosure is expressly authorized), in certain conditions in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

You may complain to us, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services, if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. To file a complaint you may go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/hipcomplaintform.pdf>

Or our office can provide you with a written form in which to file your complaint. You may also file a complaint with us by notifying our Privacy Officer of your complaint. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Our Privacy Officer is Jessica Hassell, you may contact our Privacy Officer, or any staff member, including Dr. Schneider at the following phone number (919) 661-2225 or our website, at www.4042back.com for further information about the complaint process.

Patient authorization regarding chiropractic care being provided in an “open-door” or “open or group” adjusting environment.

It is the desire of this office to provide chiropractic care in an “open-door” and “open or group” adjusting environment. An “open-door” approach involves the doctor moving from patient care area to patient care area and leaving the doors between patient care areas open. An “open or group” adjusting environment involves several patients being seen in the same adjusting room at the same time. As a result, patients may be within sight of one another and some ongoing routine details of care are discussed within earshot of other patients and staff. Therefore, we can’t assure you that any details of your care will be addressed and considered confidential by those in listening range.

This environment is used for ongoing care and is not our customary environment used for taking patient histories, performing examinations or presenting report of findings. These other procedures are usually completed in a private, confidential setting.

We are requesting this authorization of you due to various interpretations under federal law with respect to what is known as an “incidental disclosures” of health information. It is our view that the kinds of matters related in an “open door” or “open or group” environment are incidental matters. In the event you or someone else would not agree with us, we are providing this disclosure and requesting your authorization.

The use of this format is intended to make your experience with our office more efficient and productive as well as to enhance your timely access to quality health care. If you choose not to be adjusted in an “open-door” or “open or group” adjusting environment, other arrangements will be made for you. Your decision will have no adverse effect on your care from the doctor(s) or on your relationship with our staff.

Changes to the Terms of This Notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our web site.

I have:

- Received a Copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices
- Received a Copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices but chose not to keep it

I have read, accept and fully understand the information and policies of this office regarding HIPAA.

_____/_____/_____
Patient’s name(print) Patient’s signature date

Representative of Schneider Chiropractic (print) Signature of Representative

Effective August 25, 2015