



Dear Patient,

On behalf of all the staff, I welcome you to our office. We are pleased that you have selected us to care for your healthcare needs. We want you to know that we are committed to providing you with courteous, compassion and education you on your condition while respecting your privacy.

During your first visit we will conduct a thorough examination. The exam will included a discussion of your medical history and the reason you are visiting us. Your doctor will then discuss his diagnosis and the suggested treatment with you. This visit is a consultation; a procedure will not be done on your first visit with us.

Enclosed you will find a New Patient Packet, which includes the following documents,

1. Patient Demographics Information
2. A History and Physical Questionnaire
3. Authorization to Release Information Form: to give permissions for telephone messages, work excuses, school excuses, and an option for you to give specific permission to any family member or friend you wish to designate to participate in your healthcare with our office.
4. Office Policies and Patient Responsibilities
5. Notice of Privacy Practices
6. Acknowledgement Form for the Notice of Privacy Practices
7. Directions to our office

Please read and complete the packet in its entirety and bring it with you to your appointment. Also, do not forget to bring your insurance card and picture id, and any medical records that pertain to the reason of your visit. On the day of your visit, please come prepared to pay a co-insurance, co-pay or deductible that may apply to this office visit. A pre-authorization or referral may be required due to your insurance requirements. If possible, please arrive 15 minutes early so we can go over your information and any questions you may have.

Should you any questions before your visit, please feel free call us. We look forward to seeing you on your scheduled appointment. If you cannot make the appointment that has been scheduled for you, please contact our office at least 48 hours before your scheduled appointment time to reschedule or cancel.

Sincerely,

Siva K. Chockalingam, M.D.

Enclosures

**PATIENT INFORMATION**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Care Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Referring Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone # (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

**PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION:**             Home             Cell

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_.com    or    .net    .mil

Marital Status: (please circle):    Married    Widowed    Divorced    Single            Sex (please circle):    Male    Female

Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_            Patient declines to specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Employment Status: (please circle)            Active            Retired            Disabled            Unemployed

Your Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in Hospice?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No

Authorized Emergency Contact (Not currently living with you): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Insurance :	Secondary Insurance :
Plan _____	Plan _____
ID # _____	ID # _____
Group # _____	Group # _____
Name of Insured _____	Name of Insured _____
D.O.B. of Insured _____	D.O.B. of Insured _____

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BILL:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different than patient: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship with patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Name: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Pharmacy Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Authorization- Compound

This authorization form permits: Associates In Gastroenterology, P.A. to use or disclose protected health information listed in the Description section below to the Entity or Person listed in the Receiving Entity section for the following patient:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, agree and offer no objection to the release of protected health information by the above named provider to the persons indicated below: **I.E. Spouse, Child, Parent, an Employer for work excuses and any other designated adult.**

PERSON/ENTITY	RELATIONSHIP	TELEPHONE NUMBER

I understand that this agreement will expire in 3 years from date of signature.

I understand that I may object to future disclosures of information by revoking this agreement I can revoke this agreement at any time by contacting the above named provider/practice either in writing or in person.

Revocation will not apply to information that has already been disclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient/Authorized Person

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reason if unable to sign

If the patient is not present or is unable to agree, object to the use and/or disclosure of protected health information because of incapacity or an emergency circumstances, the practitioner may use professional judgment to determine whether the disclosure is in the best interest of the individual and if so, disclose only protected health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement with the individual's health care. The practitioner may also use professional judgement, experience with common practice and the best interest of the patient in also allowing the listed individuals to act on behalf of the patient to pick up filled prescription, medical supplies, x-rays, or the other forms of protected health information.

Welcome to Associates In Gastroenterology. This brochure is designed to provide you with helpful information about our policies and procedures of operations. If you have questions regarding any of the policies below please contact our Office Manager. The cost of care is expensive and a financial policy is a part of every medical practice.

### **Patient Responsibilities and Financial Policy**

Patients are ultimately responsible for all charges for services provided by Associates In Gastroenterology and payment is due when services are rendered.

If a procedure is scheduled, a non-refundable deposit may be required. This deposit will be applied to any deductible or co-pay that needs to be met.

We have the right to deny any treatment that is determined a non-emergency by our physicians due to for any outstanding balance.

We accept payments by cash, personal check, debit card, VISA and MasterCard.

### **Insured Patients**

As a courtesy, we will file your primary, secondary and tertiary insurance. If we participate with your insurance company, any amount due after the applicable contractual adjustment will be your responsibility.

Please provide us with the most updated and current information necessary to file the claim. If this is not obtained on the date of service rendered, you may be responsible for your bill. You are also responsible for notifying us of any changes in insurance. A copy of your card is required at each visit. If you do not have your card at the time of the visit, you will be asked to sign a waiver and may be billed for the services.

Please call your insurance company, if you need to verify that our office and physicians participate with them. Different insurance companies have different co-pays and deductibles. Please be aware of your individual policy requirements. You are required to pay your co-pay and/or deductible at the time of your visit with us.

We do participate with Medicare and will file insurance that is secondary to Medicare. It is your responsibility to pay your co-insurance and/or deductible at the time of service.

We are also a participating provider for SC Medicaid; however, you must have your current card at the time of service. Your card must have remaining visits left to be valid. Please verify with our office regarding our participation with any HMO Medicaid Plan.

It is the patient's responsibility to provide us with the primary care physician referral form. Please check to see if your insurance requires a referral and verify that it is obtained before your visit. If a referral is required, but not obtained, full payment may be required from the patient at the time of service.

### **Assignment of Benefits and Release of Record**

As a patient of our office, you agree to assign and authorize payment directly to Associates In Gastroenterology of all benefits for facility charges for services rendered by the facility.

If your insurance carrier has NOT paid your claim in full within 60 days, please call your insurance company to inquire about the status.

**THE PRACTICE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT ABLE TO DEFINE YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE**

## **NON-INSURED PATIENTS**

All non-insured patients are able to have a discount for prompt payment and it is expected to be paid at the time of service. We do NOT offer payment plans.

### **Attendance, Cancellation and Missing Appointment Policy**

**Office Visits:** If you cannot make a scheduled appointment, it must be cancelled at least one (1) business day in advance. Patients who fail to give one (1) business day notice will be considered a “no-show” and may be assessed a charge of \$25.

**Procedures:** All cancellations for procedures MUST be received within three (3) business days. Failure to notify the office may result in a \$50 cancellation fee.

### **Charges for Procedures**

We strive to provide you with cost-effective, high quality care. You may receive four (4) separate bills:

1. Physician's technical component fee from Associates In Gastroenterology
2. The facility fee from Berkeley Endoscopy Center
3. If a biopsy is taken during the procedure, the Pathology/lab services will be billed separately. The pathologist is a doctor who reviews the tissue specimens or labs collected from your procedure. (If X-rays are ordered after the procedure, the radiologist will bill you separately for these services.)
4. Ether, L.L.C., for the anesthesia administered to you by the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at the Endoscopy Center.

### **Returned check**

There is a \$35.44 charge in the event your check is returned for any reason. Our Financial Coordinator will notify you in writing and with a courtesy phone call.

### **Collections**

We, AIG and Ether, L.L.C. reserve the right to send accounts with a balance over 60 days old to an outside collection agency. The agency does have the right to report the past due balance to the credit bureau. Should the account be referred to an attorney or collection agency, you agree to reimburse us the fees of any collection agency, which may be based on a percentage at a maximum of 30% of the debt, and all costs, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, we incur in such collection efforts. As the patient, you certify that you- the Insured or Guarantor- are financially responsible.

### **Office Policies**

Your care will be provided by your Physician and Medical Assistant. The Medical Assistant will help coordinate your care under the direction of your physician. The Assistant will schedule follow up appointments, procedures, blood tests, and radiology services, as well as call in prescriptions and attend to your calls. Please direct all of your concerns to the Medical Assistant. The Physician personally makes his calls which can be placed any hour of the day. It is very difficult for a physician to make or take calls during a high volume clinic day.

Without your complete and current medical information, you are at risk of a misdiagnosis. It is in your best interest to provide us with your complete medical information. You do not have to waste time filling out forms in the waiting room! All the doctors you see are required to provide one copy of your record at no charge to you.

**Our office hours are:** Monday thru Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.  
**Phone hours are:** 8:30 am to 4:45 pm.

**We are closed on the following holidays:**

Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the next day, Christmas Eve at 12pm, Christmas Day, New Year Eve at 12pm and New Year's Day.

**Patient Portal**

We now have electronic health medical record software that offers time saving efforts for you. You will be asked to provide us with an email address so you may start utilizing the portal on your **personal computer** or downloading an App called **Healow** from your **Smartphone**. This portal will enable you to make and cancel appointments, update your medications, request medication refills, access your medical records, and ask the staff and physicians questions. Get started now!!!!

**Prescriptions---- Bring your medication list with you at every appointment!**

We only send prescription refills electronically; you can request a refill by using the Patient Portal, provided your account is in good standing. Please allow 48 hours to process your request. Certain prescriptions may require additional authorization from your insurance company and this may take an additional business days. If you choose not to use the Patient Portal and leave a message, it is your responsibility to provide your Date of Birth and name of medication. We only use the pharmacy that you provided to us upon your initial check in and it remains on file. Please be aware that NOT all requests will be approved; it is the discretion of the physician. The physician may need to see you for an appointment if it has been awhile since your last visit with us.

**Test Results**

Our physicians are very concerned with giving results over the phone for a number of reasons; mainly, because it is not the most secure way to communicate. When patient and physician are face to face the communication is more effective and provides the opportunity to see reports, pictures and films. With that being said, the overall care has greatly improved. Please understand your care is our priority even though this policy may seem frustrating for you and your loved ones.

**Medical Records**

You are entitled to get copies of your medical records. As per South Carolina Law, Section 44-115-80 you will be charged as follows. There is a \$15 processing fee plus \$0.65 per page for copies up to 30 pages and \$0.50 per page more than 30 pages. There will be no charge for medical records that are sent directly to your provider. Medical records will be released only after a signed Medical Release Form is directly sent to us from your Primary Care Physician. Your request will be processed within 5 business days after payment is received.

**Disability & Family Medical Leave Act**

For your benefit we complete medical forms such as Disability, Leave of Absence, FMLA, etc. There is a \$25.00 processing fee that will need to be submitted with the form. Your request will be processed within 5 business days after payment is received.

**I have acknowledged and read the above policies regarding my financial and Patient Responsibilities.**

Patient Name: (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient/ Responsible Party and/or Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

11/18/14

## **Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices**

I hereby acknowledge that I have received the Notice of Privacy Practices for the above office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: Patient's Name / Personal Representative (as defined by HIPAA)      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Description of Personal Representation and please attach copy of documentation.

Documentation of "Good Faith" Attempt to get acknowledgement signature.

- Document presented to patient, but patient refused to sign acknowledgement.
- Patient presented with an emergency situation and there was no time to give the Notice or receive a signature. Attempt to get give the Notice, and get any acknowledgement will be handled as soon as possible.
- Documentation was presented to the patient but a communication failure prevented us from receiving the acknowledgement.
- The documentation was mailed to the patient but never returned to us.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PATIENT HISTORY

Providing the following information is very important to your health. Take your time. Complete the information in full and correctly.

<b><u>WEIGHT:</u></b>	<b><u>PULSE:</u></b>	<b><u>EKG:</u></b>	<b><u>Colonoscopy:</u></b>
<b><u>HEIGHT:</u></b>	<b><u>O2:</u></b>	<b><u>RECENT BLOOD WORK:</u></b>	<b><u>Endoscopy:</u></b>
<b><u>BP:</u></b>	<b><u>Pharmacy:</u></b>		<b><u>Egg Allergy:</u></b>

**THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**

**MEDICATIONS:** If you have a medication list, please give the list to our staff to copy for you.

**No.            Name of Medications            Dose            How often**

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

### **ALLERGIES**

**No.            Name            Reaction**

1		
2		
3		
4		



**MEDICAL HISTORY:**

No.	Name	Phone Number	Fax Number
1	Primary Care Physician		
2	Cardiologist		
3	Pulmonologist		

Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Aortic Aneurysm  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Use an Inhaler? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Use Nebulizer? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Take Prednisone <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On home Oxygen  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Arrhythmia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Have a Pacemaker? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Do you have Defibrillator? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Blood Thinners?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar Disorder <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding problem <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Blood transfusion  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cholesterol	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Cataracts <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Surgery? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Right eye? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Left eye? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Both eyes?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> COPD? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Home Oxygen? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Nebulizer? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Take Prednisone  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Coronary Heart Disease <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Stent? When? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Blood Thinners?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Depression  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Do you take Insulin?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Endometriosis  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Glaucoma <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Right eye? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Left eye? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Both eyes?	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Heart valve replacement? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical or PIG Valve? When: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Blood Thinners?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> HIV  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Joint replacements  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Leg Clots (DVT) When? _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Blood Thinners?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Parkinson's Disease <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Pulmonary Embolism <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Pulmonary Hypertension  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Renal Failure <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> On Dialysis?  <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sickle Cell Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sleep Apnea <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> CPAP?

**IMMUNIZATIONS: Please circle each vaccine that you have received:**

<b>Flu Shot:</b>	<b>PPD/TB:</b>	<b>Covid19:</b>	<b>Hepatitis A:</b>	<b>Hepatitis B:</b>
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**PREVIOUS HOSPITALIZATIONS, EMERGENCY ROOM VISIT OR SURGICAL HISTORY: ( ) NONE**

No. (Month/Year)	REASON	WHERE
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

**FAMILY HISTORY: Has any of your immediate family (parents, siblings, uncle, aunts, children, and grandparents had any of the following?**

(Please circle) If yes, age of diagnosis? What relative?

		YES	NO		
1	Colon or rectal cancer	YES	NO		
2	Gastric cancer	YES	NO		
3	Colon polyps	YES	NO		
4	Crohn's Disease	YES	NO		
5	Ulcerative Colitis	YES	NO		
6	Liver Disease	YES	NO		

**SOCIAL HISTORY:**

No. Agent Information

1	Tobacco: No	Yes: 1. How often do you smoke cigarettes? Every day or some days				
		2. How many cigarettes a day do you smoke?				
		3. How soon after you wake up do you smoke your first cigarette?				
		4. Are you interested in quitting?				
2	Alcohol: No	Yes: 1. How often did you have a drink containing alcohol in the past year?				
		a. Daily	b. Weekly	c. Monthly		
		2. How many drinks did you have on a typical day when you were drinking in the past year?				
		a. 1 drink	b. 3 drinks	c. 5 drinks	d. 7 drinks	e. 9 drinks
		3. How often did you have 6 or more drinks on one or more occasions in the past year?				
		a. Never	b. Daily	c. Weekly	d. Monthly	
3	Drugs: No	Yes: 1. What type of drugs?				
		a. Marijuana	d. Heroine			
		b. Crack	e. Methamphetamine			
		c. Cocaine				

**REVIEW OF SYSTEM:****ARE YOU HAVING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS MORE THAN 6 TIMES A YEAR? Please circle**

<b>General / Constitutional:</b>	<b>Confusion</b>
	<b>Fatigue</b>
	<b>Fever</b>
	<b>Weight loss</b>
<b>Ophthalmologic</b>	<b>Cataracts</b>
	<b>Blurred Vision</b>
	<b>Discharge</b>
	<b>Itching and redness</b>
<b>Ear / Nose / Throat</b>	<b>Hoarseness</b>
	<b>Decreased hearing</b>
	<b>Dry mouth</b>
	<b>Sinus trouble</b>
<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>Cough</b>
	<b>Shortness of breath at rest</b>
	<b>Wheezing</b>
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	<b>Chest pain at rest</b>
	<b>Dizziness</b>
	<b>Irregular heartbeat</b>
	<b>Palpitations</b>
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	<b>Exposure to HIV</b>
	<b>Gas</b>
	<b>Abdominal pain</b>
	<b>Exposure to Hepatitis</b>
<b>Genitourinary</b>	<b>Blood in urine</b>
	<b>Difficulty urinating</b>
	<b>Painful urination</b>
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	<b>Knee pain</b>
	<b>Muscle aches</b>
	<b>Sciatica</b>
	<b>Swollen joints</b>
<b>Skin</b>	<b>Bruises easy</b>
	<b>Hives</b>
	<b>Itching</b>
	<b>Rash</b>
<b>Neurologic</b>	<b>Numbness</b>
	<b>Loss of strength</b>
	<b>Seizures</b>
<b>Psychiatric</b>	<b>Anxiety</b>
	<b>Depressed mood</b>
	<b>Substance Abuse</b>
	<b>Suicidal thoughts</b>

## 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.**

### **Uses and disclosures to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations**

**Treatment-** This practice may use or disclose your protected health information in consultation between health care providers relating to your treatment or for your referral to another health care provider for your treatment.

**Payment-** This practice may use or disclose your protected health information for billing, claims management, collection activities, or obtaining payment.

**Health care Operation-** This practice may use or disclose your protected health information for reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, or for conducting training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners participate. This practice may use or disclose your protected health information for accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities. This practice may use or disclose your protected health information to our business associates who participate in our healthcare operations. These disclosures will only be made after we have satisfactory assurances in the form of a Business Associates Agreement from the business associate. These assurances will include their agreement to comply with the HIPAA rules and the compliance of any subcontractor with which they do business.

### **Authorized Uses or Disclosures**

The following uses or disclosures require a valid authorization as defined by the HIPAA standards.

Uses or Disclosures for Psychotherapy Notes- Not applicable to this practice

Uses or Disclosures for Marketing Purposes- Not applicable to this practice-with permission face to face.

Disclosures for a Sale of Protected Health Information- This practice will require an authorization for any disclosures that would constitute a sale of protected health information.

For any other use or disclosure you wish us to make, you can give us a written, valid authorization. Your authorization must have specific instructions for the use and disclosure you want us to make. You will have the right to revoke the authorization in writing at any time before the information is used or disclosed.

### **Uses or disclosures requiring an opportunity for the individual to agree or object**

For disclosures to others involved with your health care or payment, we will inform you in advance and give you the opportunity to agree or object. These disclosures will be limited to the information necessary to help with your health care or payment. These disclosures will only be made if you do not object.

### **Uses and disclosures for which an authorization or opportunity to agree or object is not required**

The following uses or disclosures do not require an authorization or the opportunity for you to agree or object.

**Uses and disclosures required by law-**This practice may use or disclose protected health information to the extent required by law. The use or disclosure will comply with and be limited to the relevant requirements of such law.

**Uses and disclosures for public health activities-**This practice may use or disclose protected health information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, and vital events such as birth or death.

#### **Disclosures about victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence**

This practice may disclose protected health information about an individual whom this practice reasonably believes to be a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

**Uses and disclosures for health oversight activities-**This practice may disclose 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.

**Disclosures for judicial and administrative proceedings-** This practice may, in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal, provide only the protected health information expressly authorized by such order or a subpoena.

**Disclosures for law enforcement purposes-** This practice may disclose protected health information as required by law including laws that require the reporting of certain types of wounds or other physical injuries.

**Uses and disclosures about decedents-** This practice 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 a funeral director, as authorized by law, to carry out their duties. This disclosure will be made in reasonable anticipation of death.

**Uses and disclosures for cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes-** This practice 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 organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

**Uses and disclosures for research purposes-** This practice may use or disclose protected health information for research, when the research has been approved by an institutional review board or privacy board, to protect your protected health information.

**Uses and disclosures to avert a serious threat to health or safety-** This practice may, consistent with applicable law and standards of ethical conduct, use or disclose protected health information, in good faith, if we believe the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

**Uses and disclosures for specialized government-**This practice may use and disclose the protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities to assure the proper execution of the military mission, if the appropriate military authority has published by notice in the Federal Register.

**Disclosures for workers' compensation-**This practice may disclose protected health information as authorized by and to the extent necessary, to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault.

### **Patient rights under HIPAA**

The following information describes your rights under the HIPAA Standards. This practice requires that all requests for the various rights be made in writing and we will provide our decision on your request in writing. You should be aware that there may be some situations when there could be limitations placed on your rights. We are required to permit you to request these rights, but we are not required to agree to your request, except as discussed in the Right of Restriction section.

#### **Right of an individual to request a restriction of uses and disclosures**

This practice will permit an individual to request that we restrict uses or disclosures of protected health information about the individual to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations or to others involved in your care or in payment. We will consider these requests, but we are not required to agree to them, except as discussed in the next section.

Under your right of restriction, you may restrict certain disclosures of protected health information to a health plan for payment or healthcare operation, where payment in full is made out of pocket for a healthcare item or service

#### **Confidential communication requirements**

This practice will permit an individual to request and will accommodate reasonable requests to receive communications of protected health information from our practice by alternative means or at an alternative location.

#### **Access of individuals to protected health information**

An individual has a right of access to inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about the individual in a designated record set except as prohibited by state or federal law or certain other exemption. Your access may be provided in electronic form if producible at your request or in another form or format. As permitted by state and federal law, we may charge you a reasonable cost based fee for a copy of your record. Questions about the fee should be addressed to our Privacy Officer at the phone number listed at the end of this document.

#### **Amendment of protected health information**

An individual has the right to ask to have this practice amend protected health information or a record about the individual in a designated record set for as long as the protected health information is maintained in the designated record set.

#### **Accounting of disclosures of protected health information**

An individual has a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of protected health information made by this practice in the past six years but not before April 14, 2003. The accounting will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, or operations, as well as authorized disclosures or disclosures made for which you had an opportunity to agree or object. You may receive one free accounting in a 12 month period. There will a reasonable cost based fee for additional requests.

#### **Right of Breach Notification**

An individual has the right to and will receive a notification of any breach of their unsecured protected health information as defined by the Breach Notification Rule. We will fulfill our obligation to provide notice in accordance to HIPAA standards.

#### **Copy of this notice**

You have a right to a copy of this notice. Even if you agreed to receive an electronic copy, you may request and receive a paper copy.

#### **Our Duties**

This practice is required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information.

This practice is required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect.

This practice is required to notify you of any change in a privacy practice that is described in the notice to protected health information that we created or received prior to issuing a revised notice. We reserve the right to change the terms of our notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain. Revised Notices will be available and posted at our offices(s) and posted on our web site, if applicable.

#### **Complaints**

If at any time you feel we have violated your HIPAA rights, please contact our Privacy Officer or the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This practice will not retaliate against any individual for filing a complaint.

#### **Contact**

You have the right to file a complaint with our Privacy Officer at the address and phone number at the top of this notice, or with the Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Health and Human Services, 61 Forsyth St., SW, Suite 3B70, Atlanta, GA 30323.

Effective Date of the Notice is \_\_\_4/24/2013\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions to Columbia office from:**

1. **N.E. Columbia:** Go toward I-20 on Clemson Rd., take a right onto Wildewood Centre Drive at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road:**

**1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive**

2. **N.W. Columbia:** Take I-20 toward Florence, get off on Exit 80 Clemson Rd. Take a left on Clemson Rd., at the first traffic light, then take a left onto Wildewood Centre Drive at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road:**

**1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive.**

3. **Camden:** Take I-20 W towards Columbia, take Exit 80 to Clemson Rd., and turn right onto Clemson Rd. get into the far left hand lane at the traffic light turn left at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts on to Wildewood Centre Drive.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road:**

**1070and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive**

4. **Sumter:** Take 378 to 601 North. Take a left onto Screaming Eagle Rd. into Pontiac. Then take I-20 W towards Columbia, take Exit 80 to Clemson Rd. turn right onto Clemson Rd. get into the far left hand hand lane, then turn left at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts on to Wildewood Centre Drive.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road:**

**1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive**

**Sumter:** Take 521 to Camden, get on I-20 W towards Columbia. Take Exit 80 to Clemson Rd. Turn right onto Clemson Rd. get into the far left hand lane and turn left at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts on to Wildewood Centre Drive.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road at:**

**1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive**

5. **Lexington:** Take I-20 E towards Florence, take Exit 80 to Clemson Rd., turn left onto Clemson Rd. at the first traffic light, and turn left at the Shell Gas Station/Dunkin Donuts on to Wildewood Centre Drive.

**We are the last building on the right hand side of the road at:**

**1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive**

1070 and 1072 Wildewood Centre Drive • Columbia, SC 29229 • Phone: (803) 788-1100 • Fax: (803) 788-4522