

# FOX MEDICAL

## NOTICE: PATIENT PRIVACY

January 1, 2003

We are committed to preserving the privacy of your personal health information. In fact, we are required by law to protect the privacy of your medical health information and to provide you with Notice describing:

### **HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN ACCESS THIS INFORMATION.**

We may use health information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose health information about you to doctors, therapists, technicians, office staff or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you and your health.

We may use and disclose health information about you so that the treatment and services that you receive from Fox Medical may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party.

We may use and disclose health information about you in order to run the office and make sure that you and our other patients receive quality care.

We may be required or permitted by certain laws to use and disclose your medical information for other purposes without your consent or authorization.

As our patient, you have important rights relating to inspecting and copying medical information that we maintain, amending or correcting that information, obtaining an accounting of our disclosures of your medical information, requesting that we communicate with you confidentially, requesting that we restrict certain uses and disclosures of your health information, and complaining if you think that your rights have been violated.

We have available a detailed Notice of Privacy Practices which fully explains your rights and our obligations under the law. We may revise our Notice from time to time. The effective date at the top right hand side of this page indicates the date of the most current Notice in effect.

You have the right to receive a copy of our most current Notice in effect. If you have not yet reserved a copy of our current Notice, please let us know and we will provide you with a copy.

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the Notice of your medical information, please contact our Privacy Officer of our office at **(618) 345-0649**.

Fx1013 Rev. 11/02

## **FOX MEDICAL**

### **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 at our office at (618) 346-0316, Fox Medical, 1832 Vandalia, Collinsville, IL 62234.

#### **WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE**

This notice describes the information privacy practices followed by our employees, staff and other office personnel.

#### **YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION**

This notice applies to the information and records that we have about your health, health status, and the health care and services that you receive from Fox Medical.

We are required by law to give you this notice. It will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you and describes your rights and our obligation regarding the use and disclosure of that information.

#### **HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

We may use and disclose health information about you for the following purposes:

**For Treatment** We may use health information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose health information about you to doctors, therapists, technicians, office staff or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you and your health.

For example, information obtained by a respiratory therapist or other member of your healthcare team will be recorded in your record and used to determine the course of treatment that should work best for you. We may provide your physician or a subsequent healthcare provider with copies of various reports so that they can help determine the most appropriate care for you. Family members and other health care providers may be part of your medical care outside this office and may require information about you that we have.

**For Payment** We may use and disclose health information about you so that the treatment and services that you receive from Fox Medical may be billed to and payment

may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about a service that you received from Fox Medical so that your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the service. We may also tell your health plan about a service that you are going to receive to obtain prior approval, or to determine whether your plan will cover the service.

**For Health Care Information** We may use and disclose health information about you in order to run the office and make sure that you and our other patients receive quality care. For example, we may use your health information to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may also use health information about all or many of our patients to help us decide what additional services we should offer, how we can become more efficient, or whether certain new treatments are effective.

**Appointment Reminders** We may contact as you a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or service.

### **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

We may use or disclose health information about you without your permissions for the following purposes, subject to all applicable legal requirements and limitations:

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety** We may use and disclose health information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

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

**Research** We may use and disclose health information about you for research projects that are subject to a special approval process. We will ask you for your permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who are you, or will be involved in your care through Fox Medical.

**Organ and Tissue Donation** If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate each donation and transplantation.

**Military, Veterans, National Security and Intelligence** If you are or were a member of the armed forces, or part of the national security or intelligence communities, we may be required by military command or other government authorities to release health information about you. We may also release information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

**Worker's Compensation** We may release health information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

**Public Health Risks** We may disclose health information about you for public health reasons in order to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; or report births, deaths, suspected abuse or neglect, non-accidental physical injuries, reactions to medications or problems with products.

**Health Oversight Activities** We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for audits, investigations, inspections, or licensing purposes. These disclosures may be necessary for certain state agencies 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 health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. Subject to all applicable legal requirements, we may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena.

**Law Enforcement** We may release health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process, subject to all applicable legal requirements.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors** We may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.

**Information Not Personally Identifiable** We may be able to use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify you or reveal who you are.

**Family and Friends** We may disclose health information about you to your family members or friends if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family or friends if we can infer from the circumstances, based on our professional judgment that you would not object. For example, we may assume that you agree to our disclosure of your personal health information to your spouse when you bring your spouse with you and your treatment is discussed.

In situations where you are not capable of giving consent (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or medical emergency), we may, using our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your family member or friend is in your best interest. In that situation, we will only disclose health information relevant to the person's involvement in your care. We may use our professional judgment and experience to

make reasonable inferences that it is in your best interest to allow another person to act on your behalf to pick, for example, supplies.

## **OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

We will not use or disclose your health information for any other purpose other than those identified in the previous section with out your specific written authorization. If you give us authorization to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization, but we cannot take back any uses or disclosures already made with your permission.

If we have HIV or substance abuse information about you, we cannot release that information without a special signed, written authorization (different from the authorization mentioned above) from you. In order to disclose these types of records for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations, we will have to have a special written authorization that complies with the law governing HIV or substance abuse records.

## **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

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

**Right to Inspect and Copy** You have the right to inspect and copy your health information, such as medical and billing records, that we use to make decisions about your care. You must submit a written request to our Privacy Officer in order to inspect and/or copy your health information. If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying , mailing or other associated supplies. We may deny your request to inspect and/or copy in certain limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your health information, you may ask that the denial be reviewed. If such a review is required by law, we will select a licensed health care professional to review your request and our denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

**Right to Amend** If you believe health information that we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment as long as the information is kept by this office.

To request an amendment, complete and submit a *Request for Amendment of the Medical Record* to our Privacy Officer. 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:

- a) We did not create, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment.

- b) Is not part of the health information that we keep.
- c) You would not be permitted to inspect and copy.
- d) Is accurate and complete.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosure** You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” This is a list of the disclosures that we made of medical disclosures about you for purposes other than treatment, payment and health care operations. To obtain this list, you must submit your request in writing to our Privacy Officer. It must state a time period, which may be no longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, electronically). We may charge you for costs of providing the list. We will notify of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

**Right to Request Restrictions** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information that we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the health information that we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for it, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about an orthosis that you received.

**We are Not Required to Agree to Your Request** If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you may complete and submit the *Request for Restriction on Use and Disclosure of Medical Information And/Or Confidential Communication* to our Privacy Officer.

**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. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail.

To request confidential communications, you may complete and submit the *Request for Restriction on Use and Disclosure of Medical Information And/Or Confidential Communication* to our Privacy Officer. 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 a Paper Copy of This Notice** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive it electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy. To obtain such a copy, contact our Privacy Officer.

### **CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE**

We reserve the right to change this notice, and to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information that we already have about you as well as any information that we receive in the information. We will post a summary of the current notice in the office with its effective date in the top right hand corner. You are entitled to a copy of the notice currently in effect.

### **COMPLAINTS**

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our office or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our office, contact our **Privacy Officer** at (618) 345-0649. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.