

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF PRIVACY NOTICE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices given to me by **Pedro M. Arguello M.D.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:

If not signed, reason why acknowledgement was not obtained: \_\_\_\_\_

Person seeking acknowledgement: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pedro M. Arguello, M.D.**  
9190 Katy Freeway, Suite 102  
Houston, TX 77055  
713-647-9300

- **Health Care Operations:** We will use and disclose your health information to conduct our standard internal

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**  
(Individual and group)

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.**

**This notice describes the privacy practices of PEDRO M. ARGUELLO, M.D. and the employers who assist in providing services to patients at this facility.**

**Patient Health information**

Under federal law, your patient health information is protected and confidential. Patient health information includes information about your symptoms, test results, diagnosis, treatment, and related medical information. Your health information also includes payment, billing, and insurance information.

**How We Use Your Patient Health Information**

We use health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment, and for health care operations, including administrative purposes and evaluation of the quality of care that you receive. Under some circumstances, we may be required to use or disclose the information even without your permission.

**Examples of Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations**

- **Treatment:** we will use and disclose your health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. For example, physicians, nurses, and other members of your treatment team will record information in your record and use it to determine the most appropriate course of care. We may also disclose the information to other health care providers who are participating in your treatment, to pharmacists who are filling your prescriptions, and to family members who are helping with your care.
- **Payment:** We will use and disclose your health information for payment purposes. For example, we may need to obtain authorization from your insurance company before providing certain types of treatment. We will submit bills and maintain records of payments from your health plan.

operations, including proper administration of records, evaluation of the quality of treatment, and to assess the care and outcomes of your case and others like it.

**Special Uses**

We may use your information to contact you with appointment reminders. We may also contact you to provide information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

**Disclosures That Can Be Made Without Your Authorization**

There are situations in which we are permitted to disclose or use your medical information without your written authorization or an opportunity to object. In other situations, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing any identifiable health information about you. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose information, you can later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop future uses and disclosures. However, any revocation will not apply to disclosures or uses already made or that rely on that authorization.

- **Required by Law:** we may be required by law to report gunshot wounds, suspected abuse or neglect, or similar injuries and events.
- **Public Health Activities:** As required by law, we may disclose vital statistics, diseases, information related to recalls of dangerous products, and similar information to public health authorities
- **Health oversight:** we may be required to disclose information to assist in investigations and audits, eligibility for government programs, and similar activities.
- **Judicial and administrative proceedings:** we may disclose information in response to an appropriate subpoena or court order.

- **Law enforcement purposes:** Subject to certain restrictions, we may disclose information required by law enforcement officials.

HIPAA permits us to charge a reasonable cost-based fee.

- **Amend Information:** If you believe that information in your record is incorrect, or if important information is missing, you have the right to request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information.

- **Deaths:** We may report information regarding deaths to coroners, medical examiners, funeral directors, and organ donation agencies.
- **Serious threat to health or safety:** We may use and disclose information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.
- **Military and Special Government Functions:** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release information as required by military command authorities. We may also disclose information to correctional institutions or for national security purposes.
- **Research:** We may use or disclose information for approved medical research.
- **Workers Compensation:** We may release information about you for workers compensation or similar programs providing benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

- **Accounting or Disclosures:** You may request a list of instances where we have disclosed health information about you for reasons other than treatment, payment, or health care operations.

#### **Our Legal Duty**

We are required by law to protect and maintain the privacy of your health information, to provide this notice about our legal duties and privacy practices regarding protected health information, and to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect.

#### **Change in Privacy Practices**

We may change our policies at any time. Before we make a significant change in our policies, we will change our notice and post the new notice in the waiting area. You can also request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, use the contact information below.

In any other situation, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing any identifiable health information about you. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose information, you can later revoke that authorization to stop any future uses and disclosures.

#### **Individual Rights:**

You have the following rights with regard to your health information. Please contact the person listed below to obtain the appropriate form for exercising these rights.

- **Request Restrictions:** You may request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information. We are not required to agree to such restrictions, but if we do agree, we must abide by those restrictions.
- **Confidential Communications:** you may ask us to communicate with you confidentially by, for example, sending notices to a special address or not using postcards to remind you of appointments.
- **Inspect and obtain copies:** In most cases, you have the right to look at or get a copy of your health information;

#### **Complaints**

If you are concerned that we have violated your privacy rights, or if you disagree with a decision we made about your records, you may contact the person listed below. You also may send a written complain to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The office listed below will provide you with the appropriate address upon request. You will not be penalized in any way for filing a complaint.

#### **Contact Office**

If you have any questions, requests, or complaints please contact:

**Pedro M. Arguello or office staff**  
**9190 Old Katy Rd, Suite 102**  
**Houston, TX 77055**  
**713-647-9300**

#### **Effective Date:**

The effective date of this notice is February 15, 2005.