

Privacy Policy

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.

Conrad I Pearson Clinic, P.C. (referred to in this Notice as the "Practice") makes, keeps, uses and shares records of your medical information. As explained in this Notice, we will use and disclose (share) your medical information -

- To provide treatment to you and to keep a record of your care,
- To get paid for the care or services we provide,
- To run our business, and
- To comply with the law.

When we use the word "we" or "Practice," we mean all the persons/entities covered by this Notice and listed below and other people or companies who assist us with your treatment, payment or who do things for our business as a health care provider.

We are required by law -

- To maintain the privacy of your medical information as noted in this Notice;
- To make available to you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your medical information; and
- To follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect.

Persons / Entities Covered By This Notice

The following people and businesses are covered by this Notice: The following entities, sites and locations: Conrad I Pearson Clinic, P.C. located at 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 102, Germantown, TN 38138; 125 Guthrie Drive, Southaven, MS 38671; 3950 New Covington Pike, Suite 340, Memphis, TN 38128; and 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 101, Germantown, TN 38138; 8066 Walnut Run, Suite 100, Cordova, TN 38018.

- All Conrad I Pearson Clinic, P.C. Practice employees, staff, and other Practice personnel;

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- Persons or entities who perform services for the Practice under agreements containing privacy and security protections or to which disclosure of medical information is permitted or required by law;
- Persons or entities with whom the Practice participates in managed care arrangements;
- Our volunteers and medical, nursing and other health care students; and
- Members of the Practice Medical Staff (our doctors) and other medical professionals involved in your care or reviewing the actions of other doctors, or quality improvement, medical education and other services for the Hospital.

Uses And Disclosures Of Your Medical Information

We use and disclose medical information in the ways described below.

Treatment. We may use your medical information to provide medical treatment or services to you. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, therapists, medical, nursing or other medical students, or other people taking care of you inside and outside of our Practice. We may use and disclose your medical information to coordinate or manage your care or to seek a consultation. As examples, a doctor treating you for kidney transplant may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process, or the doctor may need to tell the dietitian if you have diabetes so you can have healthy meals. The Practice may share your medical information to order drugs or schedule the tests and procedures you need, such as laboratory tests and x-rays. We also may disclose your medical information to health care facilities if you need to be transferred from a one facility to a hospital, a nursing home, a home health provider, rehabilitation center, hospice, etc. We also may disclose your medical information to people outside the Practice who are involved in your care, such as other health care providers, family members who care for you or pharmacists.

Payment. We may use and disclose your medical information so that the treatment and services you get can be billed and collected from you, an insurance company or another company or person. For example, we may give your insurance company (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS/TRICARE, or a private insurance company) information about surgery you received so your insurance company will pay us for the surgery. We also may tell your insurance company about a treatment you are going to receive or did receive in order to know whether insurance will pay for the treatment. We could disclose your information to a collection agency to obtain overdue payment. We might also be asked to disclose information to a government agency or other entity to determine whether the services we provided were correctly billed.

Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your medical information to run the Practice and its facilities as a business, including uses/disclosures of your information such as in the following examples: (1) quality or patient safety activities, population-based activities to improve health or reducing health care costs, case management and care coordination, and contacting of health care providers and you with information about treatment alternatives; (2) reviewing health care professionals' backgrounds and grading their performance, conducting training programs for staff, students, trainees, or professionals; performing accreditation, licensing, or credentialing activities for our business; (3) activities related to insurance benefits, (4) arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing; (5) business planning, development, and management activities, including things like customer service, or resolving complaints; (6) selling, transferring, leasing, or combining of all or part of the Practice facilities; and (7) creating and using/disclosing de-identified health information or a limited data set or having a vendor combine data or do other tasks for various business reasons. As other examples, we may disclose your medical information to doctors who review the care that was provided to patients. We may disclose information to doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, medical, nursing or other students, and Practice personnel to help teach others how to do their jobs. We may combine medical information about many patients to decide what services the Practice should offer, and whether new services are cost-effective and how we compare with other places. We may disclose information to other providers involved in your treatment to allow them to carry out the work of their facility or to get paid.

Health Information Exchange.

Important Notice Regarding The Disclosure Of Your Medical Records To Health Information Exchange (HIE)

We may release your medical records or other information about you to a Health Information Exchange or a health information network (called an "HIE" in this Notice). HIEs provide healthcare providers (including doctors and health facilities) and insurance companies with the ability to share or "exchange" clinical information about you electronically. HIEs are designed to provide your physicians/health facilities/providers with greater access to your clinical information with the goal of reducing the number of tests and treatment delays from paper medical records, helping providers communicate and providing patients with safer care. HIEs are very helpful when providing care in emergencies.

The healthcare providers who have access to HIE will have access to all your personal or health information that has been entered into the HIE and may use that information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, or as otherwise required/allowed by state and federal law.

- HIE was developed to assist the federal government in its nationwide health information technology system.

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- HIE is a network that links the Practice, its Affiliates, its physicians (employed or independent) and other medical care providers and allows them to exchange health information about you. HIE will be linked with other HIEs or networks across the state and country acting as a commonly shared medical record to help provide information and care. For example, we may have access to your primary care physician's record if that physician participates in the same exchange. An ED physician treating you in another state may have access to your medical record which might include our Practice records, etc.
- We MAY OR MAY NOT send any or all of your past, present, or future medical information into the HIE, and your healthcare providers may or may not have access to HIE. Therefore, we encourage you to always notify your doctor of all your past and present medical conditions, treatments and medications.
- **SENSITIVE INFORMATION:** Sensitive information (such as HIV/AIDs or other communicable disease, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment information) is protected under state and federal law. We will provide sensitive information to the HIE but will put into place protections to help prevent the disclosure of sensitive information to those other than your treating providers, their workforce members and business associates; however, because sensitive information cannot be completely isolated or removed from other medical information, there is a chance that sensitive information (or information that could indicate you have had treatment for a sensitive condition) could be included within your medical information. Therefore, if you are concerned at all about a certain piece of medical information being known, we strongly recommend you tell us you do not want your information in the HIE. In other words, you should "opt-out" of participation.
- **TO OPT-OUT OF HIE: IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR PERSONAL OR MEDICAL INFORMATION AUTOMATICALLY ENTERED INTO OR DISCLOSED THROUGH HIE, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY CONTACTING TERI DANIELS AT (901) 252-3417 OR AT 1325 WOLF PARK DRIVE, SUITE 102, GERMANTOWN, TN 38138. PLEASE ALLOW 5 BUSINESS DAYS FOR US TO PROCESS YOUR OPT-OUT REQUEST. INFORMATION RELEASED TO HIE PRIOR TO PROCESSING OF OPT-OUT FORM MAY REMAIN IN HIE. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST ALSO OPT-OUT SEPARATELY WITH EACH OF YOUR HOSPITAL, PHYSICIAN AND OTHER PROVIDERS WHO MAY PARTICIPATE IN HIE.**

Patient Portal / Other Patient Electronic Correspondence We will use and disclose information through a secure patient portal which allows you to view, download and transmit certain parts of your medical (e.g., lab results) and billing information in a secure manner when using the portal. However, if you choose to store, print, email, or post, the information using technology outside the secure patient portal, it may not be secure. For more information on the patient portal, contact Teri Daniels at (901) 252-3417 or at 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 102, Germantown, TN 38138. Further, if you email us medical or billing information from a private email address (such as a Yahoo,

Gmail, etc. account), your information will not be secured (encrypted - put into a code that cannot be read by another person) unless you use a secure messaging portal to send it to us. Requests to email your medical or billing information to a private email address (such as a Yahoo, Gmail, etc. account) will be encrypted by us when it is sent to you. If you request us to post your information on flash drives/CDs, etc., your information may not be encrypted and may not be secure. We are not responsible if this confidential information is released from our secure portal to your care and redisclosed by another person.

Health Services, Products, Treatment Alternatives and Health-Related

Benefits. We may use and disclose your medical information in providing face-to-face communications; promotional gifts; refill reminders or communications about a drug or biologic; case management or care coordination; to direct or recommend alternative treatments, therapy, doctors, or settings of care; to describe a health-related product/service (or payment for such product/service) that is provided through a benefit plan; to offer information on other providers participating in a healthcare network that we participate in, or to offer other health-related products, educational seminars, benefits or services that may be of interest to you. We may use and disclose your medical information to contact and remind you of an appointment for treatment, a refill or for medical care.

Personal Representative(s) and Other Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.

There may be times when you are not able to act or speak for yourself, or you may simply choose to pick another person to act, speak or make decisions for you. A person who has the ability under State law to act for you in making healthcare decisions is your "personal representative." This may be the person you listed in your Durable Power of Healthcare Attorney (if you have one) or the person who has the ability to consent to medical treatment for you under the law (e.g., your spouse, your parents if you are a dependent minor, a guardian, etc.). Your personal representative can officially act for you to exercise your rights or to get copy of your medical and billing records or to receive verbal information about you - usually in the same way that you can do these things. In addition to your legal "personal representative," family members or other persons who are involved in your care or payment may be able to get medical or billing information about you, even if they are not allowed by law to act as your personal representative. In other words, we are allowed at certain times to speak with those who are/were involved in your care/payment activities (even after your death), such as in emergency situations, if you are present and do not object and/or if we assume based on our professional judgment that you would not object. This helps us be able to care for you. We may also give your medical information to an entity assisting in disaster relief efforts so that your family can be notified about your condition. If you do not want us to talk with or talk in front of a particular person about your care, you should notify Teri Daniels at (901) 252-3417 or at 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 102, Germantown, TN 38138 and/or make your wishes clearly known each time your nurse, doctor, or therapist enters your examination/hospital room. Minors. If you are a minor (under 18 years old), the Practice will comply

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with Tennessee law regarding minors. We may release certain types of your medical information to your parent or guardian if such release is required or permitted by law.

Research. We may use and disclose your medical information for research purposes. Most research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. Most research projects require your permission if a researcher will be involved in your care or will have access to your name, address or other information that identifies you. However, the law allows some research to be done using your medical information without requiring your written approval.

Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use and disclose your medical information to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

Organ and Tissue Donation. If you are an organ donor, we may release your medical information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to aid in its organ or tissue donation and transplantation process.

Military and Veterans. If you are a member of the U.S. or foreign armed forces, we may release your medical information as required by the military.

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

Public Health Risks and Safety Issues. We may disclose your medical information (and certain test results) for public health purposes or for safety issues, such as -

- To report to a public health authority to prevent or control the spread of diseases (including sexually transmitted diseases), injury or disability;
- To report births and deaths;
- To report child, elder or adult abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- To report to bad reactions to medications or problems with drugs or products;
- To notify people of recalls of products they may be using;
- To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for getting or spreading a disease or condition; and
- To notify employer of work-related illness or injury (in certain cases).

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose your medical information to a federal or state agency for health oversight activities such as audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure of the Practice and of the providers who treated you. These activities are

necessary for the government to monitor us to make sure we are doing what we are supposed to do under the law.

Lawsuits and Disputes. We may disclose your medical information to respond to a court or government request, order or a search warrant and to defend ourselves. We also may disclose your medical information to respond to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in a dispute.

Law Enforcement. Subject to certain conditions, we may disclose your medical information for a law enforcement purpose upon the request of a law enforcement official or to report suspicion of death resulting from criminal conduct or crime on our premises or for emergency or other purposes.

Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors. We may disclose your medical information to a coroner or medical examiner or funeral director so they may carry out their duties.

National Security. We may disclose your medical information to authorized federal officials for national security activities authorized by law.

Inmates. If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement officer, we may release your medical information to the correctional institution or a law enforcement officer. This release would be necessary for the Practice to provide you with health care,

Business Associates. Your medical or billing information could be disclosed to people or companies outside our Practice so they can provide services to us. We make these companies sign special confidentiality agreements with us that tell them what they can and cannot do with your medical information before giving them access to your information. They can be fined by the federal government if they use/disclose your information in a way that is not allowed by law.

As Required By Law. We may use or disclose your medical or billing information in any other manner that is required by law.

Sensitive Information. *State law provides special protection for certain types of health information, including information about alcohol or drug abuse, mental health and communicable diseases (e.g., AIDS/HIV), and may limit whether and how we may disclose information about you to others. Most of these laws allow us to use and disclose sensitive information for treatment purposes but may restrict other types of disclosures.*

Your Privacy Rights

Right to Inspect and Right to Get a Copy. You have the right to review and get a copy of your medical and billing information that is held by us in a designated record set (including the right to obtain an electronic copy if readily producible by us in the form and format requested). The front desk at each Practice or the HIPAA Contact Person at the end of the Notice has a form you can fill out to request to review or get a copy of your medical information, and can tell you how much your copies will cost. The Practice

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is allowed by law to charge a reasonable cost-based fee for labor, supplies, postage and the time to prepare any summary. We will provide you a copy of your record as quickly as possible and usually within 30 days of our receipt of the request. You may also request and obtain copies of portions of your electronic health record through the Patient Portal. We will respond to your request via the Patient Portal promptly. The Practice will tell you if it cannot fulfill your request. If you are denied the right to see or copy your information, you may ask us to reconsider our decision. Depending on the reason for the decision, we may ask a licensed health care professional to review your request and its denial. We will comply with the health care professional's decision.

Right to Amend. If your medical information in our records is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us in writing to amend the information. You must provide a reason to support your requested amendment. We will tell you if we cannot fulfill your request within 60 days of your request. You may request that a written statement of disagreement be placed in your medical record. The HIPAA Contact Person listed below can help you with your request.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to ask in writing for a list of certain types of disclosures the Practice has made of your medical information during the 6 years prior to the request. This list is not required to include all disclosures we make. For example, disclosure for treatment, payment, or business purposes, disclosures made to you or which you authorized us to make are not required to be listed. We will provide you the accounting of required disclosures promptly and usually within 60 days of receipt of your request. The HIPAA Contact Person listed at the end of the Notice can help you with this process.

Right to Request Restrictions on Disclosures. You have the right to make a written request to restrict access to your records or limit the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on your medical information that we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. We may not be required to agree to your request, except as follows:

- **Payor Exception:** If allowed by law, we must agree to a requested restriction, if (1) the disclosure is to your health insurance company for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations and (2) the medical information to be restricted relates solely to a health care item or service for which all parties have been paid in full out of pocket. NOTE: During a single hospital, ambulatory surgery center, Practice visit, you may receive a bill for payment from multiple sources, including the Hospital, laboratories, individual physicians who cared for you, specialists, radiologists, etc. Therefore, if you wish to restrict a disclosure to your health insurance company from all these parties, you must tell each independent health care provider separately and you must submit payment in full to each individual provider. Practice expressly disclaims any responsibility or liability for independent medical staff acts or omissions relating to your HIPAA privacy rights.

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If we do agree to a request for restriction, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment or to make a disclosure that is required under law. 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, for example, disclosures to your adult children. The HIPAA Contact Person listed at the end of the Notice can help you with these requests.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to make a written request that we communicate with you about medical things in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we contact you only at work or by mail. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will agree to all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. The HIPAA Contact Person listed at the end of the Notice can help you with these requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to get a paper copy of this Notice at any time even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. You may obtain a copy of this Notice at our website at www.conradpearson.com or a paper copy from the HIPAA Contact Person listed at the end of the Notice

Right to Receive a Notice of a Breach of Unsecured Medical / Billing Information. You have the right to receive a notice in writing of a breach of your unsecured medical or billing or financial information. Your physicians (who are not Practice employees) or other independent entities involved in your care will be solely responsible for notifying you of any breaches that result from their actions or inactions. For more information, see www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

Changes To This Notice

We reserve the right to change this Notice. The revised Notice will apply to medical information we already have at the time of the change, as well as, to any medical information we have in the future. We will prominently post the current Notice at the Practice registration sites and on our website at www.conradpearson.com.

Other Uses And Disclosures Of Medical Or Billing Information Require Your Authorization

Uses and disclosures that are not generally referred to in this Notice of Privacy Practices or are not otherwise allowed by federal and/or state law or our policies and procedures, will require your written authorization. For example, unless otherwise allowed by law, most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes (which we do not maintain), uses and disclosures for marketing purposes and disclosures that are the sale of medical information would require an authorization.

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If you give 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 your medical information for the reasons noted in your written authorization, but the revocation will not affect actions we have taken while relying on your permission. We will be unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission. We still must continue to comply with laws that require certain disclosures, and we are required to retain our records of the care that we provide to you.

Your HIPAA Contact Person

If you have any questions about this Notice or have a complaint or concern, please contact the Conrad I Pearson Clinic, P.C. Privacy Officer at (901) 252-3430, or send an email to tdaniels@conradpearson.com or send a letter to Conrad I Pearson Clinic, P.C., Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 103, Germantown, TN 38138.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a written complaint with the Practice, by calling our HIPAA Privacy Officer at (901) 252-3417 or writing a letter to Conrad Pearson Clinic, PC, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 1325 Wolf Park Drive, Suite 102, Germantown, TN 38138. You can also file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

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