



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES FOR PATIENTS

Effective March 1, 2003 and will remain in effect until further notice.

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: Treatment: Your health information may be used by staff members or disclosed to other health care professionals for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing medical conditions and providing treatment. For example, results of laboratory tests and procedures will be available in your medical record to all health professionals who may provide treatment or who may be consulted by our staff members.

Payment: Your health information may be used to seek payment from your health plan, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies that you may use to pay for services. For example, your health plan may request and receive information on dates of service, the services provided and the medical condition being treated.

Health Care Operations: Your health information may be used as necessary to support the day-to-day activities and management of PCA. For example, information on the services you received may be used to support budgeting, financial reporting and activities to evaluate and/or promote quality.

Law Enforcement: Your health information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies, without your permission, to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting.

Public Health Reporting: Your health information may be disclosed to public health agencies as required by law. For example, we are required to report certain communicable diseases to the state's public health department.

Other uses and disclosures require your authorization: Disclosure of your health information or its use for any purpose other than those listed above requires your specific written authorization. If you change your mind after authorizing a use or disclosure of your information you may submit a written revocation of the authorization. However, your decision to revoke the authorization will not affect or undo any use or disclosure of information that occurred before you notified us of your decision.

Additional Uses of Information:

Appointment reminders: Your health information will be used to remind you of appointments that you may have scheduled.

Information about treatments: Your health information may be used to send you information on the treatment and managements of your medical condition that you may find to be of interest. We may also send you information describing other health-related goods and service that we believe may interest you.

Individual Rights: You have certain rights under the Federal Privacy Standards. These include:

- ✓ **The right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your protected health information**
- ✓ **The right to receive confidential communications concerning your medical condition and treatment**
- ✓ **The right to inspect and copy your protected health information**
- ✓ **The right to amend or submit corrections to your protected health information**
- ✓ **The right to receive an accounting of how and to whom your protected health information has been disclosed**
- ✓ **The right to receive a printed copy of this notice**

PCA Duties: We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide you with this notice of privacy practices. We are required to abide by the privacy policies and practices that are outlined in this notice.

Right to Revise Privacy Practices: As permitted by law, we reserve the right to amend or modify our privacy policies and practices. These changes in our policies and practices may be required by changes in federal and state laws and regulations. Whatever the reason for these revisions, we will post the revised notice in our waiting area and you may request a copy of our policy at any time. The revised policies and practices will be applied to all protected health information that we maintain.

Requests to Inspect Protected Health Information: As permitted by federal regulation, we require that requests to inspect or copy protected health information be submitted in writing. You may obtain a form to request access to your records by contacting our Privacy Official.

Complaint Contact: If you would like to submit a comment or complaint about our privacy practices, you can do so by sending a letter outlining your concerns to:

Clinical Site Director (540) 387-0441 ex 2076

PCA 1935 West Main ST., Salem, VA 24153

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you should call the matter to our attention by sending a letter describing the cause of your concern to the same address. You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Privacy Official: For further information concerning our privacy practices contact:

Human Resource/Compliance Office (540) 302-0192 ex. 5323

PCA 1955 West Main ST., Salem, VA 24153

Patient Signature (or responsible party) _____ **Date** _____

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of PCA's Notice of Privacy Practices, dated 3-1-03

Signature of patient or Patient's Representative _____ **Date** _____

Printed Name of Patient's Representative _____ **Relationship to patient** _____

Evidence of the authority of the patient's representative (please attach to this acknowledgement)