



Privacy Practices

EFFECTIVE APRIL 14, 2003
Revised February 21, 2013

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice; you may request a copy at any time.

HOW UROLOGY CENTER OF COLUMBUS MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU.

Urology Center of Columbus may use and disclose your health information for the following purposes without your express consent or authorization.

Treatment. We may use your health information to provide you with medical treatment. We may disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other personnel involved in your care. We also may disclose information to persons outside Urology Center of Columbus involved in your treatment, such as other health care providers, family members, and friends. We may use and disclose your health information to remind you of upcoming appointments. Unless you direct us otherwise, we may leave messages on your telephone answering machine identifying Urology Center of Columbus and asking for you to return our call. We will not disclose any health information to any person other than you except to leave a message for you to return the call.

Payment. We may use and disclose your health information as necessary to collect payment for services we provide to you. We also may provide information to other health care providers to assist them in obtaining payment for services they provide to you.

Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your health information for our internal operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary for our day-to-day operations and to make sure patients receive quality care. We may disclose health information about you to another health care provider or health plan with which you also have had a relationship for purposes of that provider's or plan's internal operations.

Business Associates. Urology Center of Columbus provides some services through contracts or arrangements with business associates. We require our business associates to appropriately safeguard your information.

Creation of De-identified Health Information. We may use your health information to create de-identified health information. This means that all data items that would help identify you are removed or modified.

Uses and Disclosures Required by Law. We will use and/or disclose your information when required by law to do so.

Disclosures for Public Health Activities. We may disclose your health information to a government agency authorized (a) to collect data for the purpose of preventing or control disease, injury, or disability; or (b) to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. We also may disclose such information to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease if permitted by law.

Disclosures About Victims of Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence. Urology Center of Columbus may disclose your health information to a government authority if we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

Disclosures for Judicial and Administrative Proceedings. Your protected health information may be disclosed in response to a court order or in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process if certain legal requirements are satisfied.

Disclosures for Law Enforcement Purposes. We may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official as required by law or in compliance with a court order, court-ordered warrant, a subpoena, or summons issued by a judicial officer; a grand jury subpoena; or an administrative request related to a legitimate law enforcement inquiry.

Disclosures Regarding Victims of a Crime. In response to a law enforcement official's request, we may disclose information about you with your approval. We may also disclose information in an emergency situation or if you are incapacitated if it appears you were the victim of a crime.

1021 Talbotton Road
Columbus, GA 31904

Disclosures to Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may disclose information to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public or as necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

Disclosures for Specialized Government Functions. We may disclose your protected health information as required to comply with governmental requirements for national security reasons or for protection of certain government personnel or foreign dignitaries.

Disclosure for Fundraising. We may disclose demographic information and dates of service to an affiliated foundation or a business associate that may contact you to raise funds for Urology Center of Columbus. You have a right to opt out of receiving such fundraising communications.

Disclosure for Marketing. Uses or disclosures of protected health information for marketing purposes will require authorization.

Disclosure for Remunerated Treatment Communications. We may disclose your information for the purposes of communicating treatment alternatives or health-related products or services when Urology Center of Columbus receives payment for your information in exchange for making the communication. You have a right to opt out of receiving such communications.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES

We will obtain your express written authorization before using or disclosing your information for any other purpose not described in this notice. You may revoke such authorization, in writing, at any time to the extent Urology Center of Columbus has not relied on it. You have the right to be notified when a breach of your unsecured protected health information has occurred.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

Right to Inspect and Copy. You have the right to inspect and copy health information electronically and by paper maintained by Urology Center of Columbus if it is readily producible, or, if not, in a readable electronic form and format as agreed to by the covered entity and the individual. To do so, you must complete a specific form providing information needed to process your request. If you request copies, we may charge a reasonable fee. We may deny you access in certain limited circumstances. If we deny access, you may request review of that decision by a third party and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right To Request Amendment. If you believe your records contain inaccurate or incomplete information, you may ask us to amend the information. To request an amendment, you must complete a specific form providing information we need to process your request, including the reason that supports your request.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures and Access Report. You have the right to request a list of disclosures of your health information we have made, with certain exceptions defined by law. You also may request an access report indicating who has accessed your PHI maintained by Urology Center of Columbus or its business associates in an electronic designated record set in the last three years. To request an accounting or an access report, you must complete a specific written form providing information we need to process your request.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction on our uses and disclosures of your health information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. You must complete a specific written form providing information we need to process your request. Urology Center of Columbus' Privacy Officer is the only person who has the authority to approve such a request. If you have paid for a health care item or service in full, out of pocket, we must honor your request to restrict information from being disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or operations.

Right to Request Alternative Methods of Communication. You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a certain way or at a certain location. You must complete a specific form providing information needed to process your request. We will not ask you the reason for your request, and we will accommodate all reasonable requests.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your rights with respect to health information have been violated, you may file a complaint with Urology Center of Columbus or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with Urology Center of Columbus, please contact Urology Center of Columbus' Privacy Officer at **706-324-7700**. All complaints must be submitted in writing to 1021 Talbotton Road, Columbus, GA 31904. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.** Urology Center of Columbus reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the revised Notice effective with respect to all protected health information regardless of when the information was created.