

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

This notice describes how health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

### **How Your HEALTH INFORMATION May Be Used**

#### **To Provide Treatment**

We will use your HEALTH INFORMATION within our office to provide you with the best dental care possible. This may include administrative and clinical office procedures designed to optimize scheduling and coordination of care between hygienist, dental assistant, dentist, and business office staff. In addition, we may share your health information with physicians, referring dentists, clinical and dental laboratories, pharmacies or other health care personnel providing your treatment.

#### **To Obtain Payment**

We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services you receive in our office. We may do this with insurance forms filed for you in the mail or sent electronically. A bill may be sent to you or a third-party payer. The information on or accompanying the bill may include your dental information.

#### **To Conduct Health Care Operations**

We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, improving the performance of an employee, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.

#### **In Patient Reminders**

We will remind you of a scheduled appointment or that it is time for you to contact us and make an appointment. Additionally, we may contact you to follow up on your care and inform you of treatment options or services that may be of interest to you or your family. They may include postcards, folding postcards, letters, telephone reminders or electronic reminders such as email (unless you tell us that you do not want to receive these reminders).

#### **Public Health and National Security**

We may be required to disclose to Federal officials or military authorities health information necessary to complete an investigation related to public health or to national security. Health information could be important when the government believes the public safety could benefit when the information could lead to the control or prevention of an epidemic or the understanding of new side effects of a drug treatment or medical device.

#### **Data Breach Notification Purposes**

We may use your medical information to provide legally required notices of unauthorized acquisitions, access, or disclosure of your health information due to a breach.

### **Court Orders and Judicial and Administrative Proceedings**

We may disclose dental information in response to a court administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful purposes, under certain circumstances, such as court order, warrant, or grand jury subpoena, a law enforcement official concerning the dental information of a suspect, fugitive, material witness, crime victim, or missing person. We may share the dental information of an inmate or other person in lawful custody with a law enforcement official or correctional institution under certain circumstances.

#### **Required by Law**

We may use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

#### **Persons Involved in Care**

We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, of your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, x-rays, or other similar forms of health information.

#### **Marketing Health-Related Services**

We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

#### **To Your Family and Friends**

We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Patient Rights Section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

#### **Your Authorization**

In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us written authorization, we cannot disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this notice.

## Patient Rights

This new law is careful to describe that you have the following rights related to your health information.

### Restrictions

You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

### Amendment

You have the right to request that we amend your health information. (Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be mended.) We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

### Confidential Communications

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. (You must make your request in writing.) Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide a satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

### Documentation of Health Information

You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

### Access

You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. (You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. We may charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us an e-mail or a letter to the address at the end of this notice. We may charge for staff time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.)

### Request a Paper Copy of this Notice

You have the right to obtain a copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices directly from our office at any time. Stop by or give us a call and we will mail it to you.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide to you and your representative this

Notice of Privacy Practices. We are required to practice the policies and procedures described in this notice, but we do reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice. If we change our privacy practices, we will be sure that all of our patients receive a copy of the revised Notice.

You have the right to express complaints to us or the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been compromised. We encourage you to express any concerns you may have regarding the privacy of your information. Please let us know of your concerns or complaints in writing.

## Patient Acknowledgement

### Purpose of Consent

By signing this form, you will consent to our use and disclosure of your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment activities, and healthcare operations.

### Notice of Privacy Practices

You have the right to read our Notice of Privacy Practices before you decide whether to sign this Consent. Our Notice provides a description of our treatment, payment activities, and healthcare operations, of the uses and disclosures we may make of your protected health information, and of other important matters about your protected health information. A copy of our Notice accompanies this Consent. We encourage you to read it carefully and completely before signing this Consent. We reserve the right to change our privacy practices as described in our Notice of Privacy Practices. If we change our privacy practices, we will issue a revised Notice of Privacy Practices, which will contain the changes. Those changes may apply to any of your protected health information that we maintain.

You may obtain a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, including any revisions of our Notice, at any time by contacting our office:

Ashley S. Nguyen, DDS, PLLC  
901 N. Washington Street  
Suite #202  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Office: (703) 706-9564 Fax: (703) 706-9588

### Right to Revoke

You will have the right to revoke this Consent at any time by giving us written notice of your revocation submitted to the contact person listed above. Please understand that revocation of the consent will not affect any action we took in reliance of the consent before we received your revocation, and that we may decline to treat you or to continue treating you if you revoke this consent.