

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 14, 2003

Dear Patient:

This practice has always protected the confidentiality of health information and refused to reveal your information without your written consent. Today, state and federal laws also attempt to ensure the confidentiality of this sensitive information.

The federal government recently published regulations designed to protect the privacy of your health information. This "privacy rule", called HIPAA, protects health information that is maintained by physicians, hospitals, other health care providers, including physician practices.

The Notice of Privacy Practices attached to this letter explains our privacy practices. It contains very important information about how your confidential health information is handled by our practice. It also describes how you may exercise your rights with regard to your protected health information. This copy is being provided to you to take home. There is an Acknowledgement of Receipt of Privacy Notice enclosed that we are asking you to sign and give back to our Office representative.

This information is lengthy and we understand that it will take time for you to read this material, but it is important that all patients understand their privacy rights. It is now a federal law that all patients be provided this information.

Please let us know if you have any questions about our Notice of Privacy Practices. You may contact our Privacy Officer at 770-419-9902 or discuss any questions you may have with the Administrator.