

2013 PATIENT LETTER ON PRIVACY PRACTICES

As a patient of Carrboro Family Medicine, PA, we want to make sure you know about an important protection for privacy that went into effect on April 14, 2003 and that was modified in February 2009 and January 2013. The change affects not only our practice, but also many other organizations.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) enacted in August 1996 gives the federal government the ability to give covered entities such as Carrboro Family Medicine, PA specific rules about the storage and transmission of personal healthcare information about individuals. A section of HIPAA known as the Privacy Rule tells us how we should use “protected health information” (PHI) within our practice and how we should disclose it outside Carrboro Family Medicine, PA. Both the HITECH Act of 2009 and the 2013 Omnibus Final Rule modify some of the provisions in the original legislation.

Historically, physicians controlled the use of information about members of their workforce. The Privacy Rule changes the balance, giving patients or their personal representatives control over the use and disclosure of PHI. Here’s a list of patient protections that the Privacy Rule provides. The list includes changes made by the HITECH Act of 2009 and by the 2013 Omnibus Final Rule.

- Right to receive copies of our Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP)
- Right to give permission to Carrboro Family Medicine, PA for the use and disclosure of PHI for certain purposes and for psychotherapy notes
- Right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of PHI. In some but not all cases the covered entity must comply with the patient’s request
- Right to authorize the use and disclosure of PHI for all marketing purposes
- Right to authorize the use and disclosure of the sale of PHI
- Right to authorize the use and disclosure of the use and disclosure of PHI for fundraising purposes or to opt out of each solicitation
- Right to request restrictions on the way(s) in which the practice communicates PHI to them
- Right to request us to change the PHI that is contained in their medical records
- Right to request to inspection and copying of PHI
- Right to request an electronic version of PHI
- Right to request that PHI be sent to a designated individual
- Right to request an accounting of disclosures of PHI made by Carrboro Family Medicine, PA
- Right to complain to Carrboro Family Medicine, PA and to the Department of Health and Human Services about alleged violations of the Privacy Practices

Although the Privacy Rule gives patients new rights, it doesn’t prevent Carrboro Family Medicine, PA from using PHI for matters relating to treatment, payment, and operations.

The Carrboro Family Medicine, PA Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) complies with the original HIPAA Privacy Rule as well as with the HITECH Act of 2009 and the 2013 Omnibus Final Rule. We would like you to read the Notice and acknowledge in writing that you have reviewed it. We are asking all of our patients, regardless of how long they have received care from our practice, to read and acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices.

If you have any questions about HIPAA and the Privacy Rule, please contact our Privacy Official, 610 Jones Ferry Road, Suite #102, Carrboro, NC 27510, (919) 929-1747.