

Vista Del Mar Medical Group, Inc.

“Your Personal Private Physician”

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

We care about our patients’ privacy and strive to protect the confidentiality of your medical information. Federal legislation requires that we issue this official note of our privacy practices. You have the right to the confidentiality of your medical information, and this practice is required by law to maintain the privacy of that protected health information. This practice is required to abide by the terms and the Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect, and to provide notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact the Privacy Officer at this practice.

WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE

Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your medical record, all employees, staff and other personnel at this practice who may need access to your information must abide by this notice. All subsidiaries, business associates, sites and locations of this practice may share medical information with each other for treatment, payment purposes or healthcare operations described in this Notice. Except where treatment is involved, only the minimum necessary information needed to accomplish this task will be shared.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

The following categories describe different ways that we may use and disclose medical information without your specific consent or authorization. Examples are provided from each category of uses or disclosures. Not every possible use or disclosure in a category is listed.

FOR TREATMENT

We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment of services. Example: In treating you for a specific condition, we may need to know if you have allergies that could influence medication we prescribe for the treatment process.

FOR PAYMENT

We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive from us may be billed and payment may be collected from you, your insurance company, or a third party. Example: We may need to send your protected health information, such as your name, address, office visit date, and codes identifying your diagnosis and treatment to your insurance company for payment.

FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS

We may use and disclose medical information about you from health care operation to ensure that you received quality care. Example: We may use medical information to review our treatment and services and evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT CAN BE MADE WITHOUT CONSENT OR AUTHORIZATION

- As required during an investigation by law enforcement agencies
- To avert a serious threat to public health or safety
- As required by military command authorities for their medical records

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- To workers’ compensation or similar programs for processing claims
- In response to a legal proceeding
- To a coroner or medical examiner for identification of a body
- If an inmate, to the correctional institution or law enforcement official
- As required by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Other healthcare providers’ treatment activities
- Other covered entities’ and providers’ payment activities
- Other covered entities’ healthcare operations activities (to the extent permitted under HIPAA)
- Uses and disclosures required by law
- Uses and disclosures in domestic violence or neglect situations
- Health oversight activities
- Other public health activities

We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION REQUIRING YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you give us authorization to use or disclose medical information about you, you make revoke that authorization, in writing at any time. If you revoke your authorization, we will thereafter no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are required to retain our records of the care we have provided you.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION

Complaints – If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Privacy Officer at this practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. All complaints must be submitted in writing. You will not be penalized or discriminated against for filing a complaint.

Submit your complaint to one or both of the following addresses:

**Attention: Privacy Officer
Vista Del Mar Medical Group, Inc.
1200 West Gonzales Road, Suite 300
Oxnard, California 93036
(805) 983-0691**

**Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Room 509F HHH Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20201**

OCRComplaint@hhs.gov

www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/hipcomplaint.pdf

Right to Request Restrictions – You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment of health care operations or to someone

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who is involved in your care or the payment of your care. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at this practice. In your request, you must tell us what information you want to limit.

Right to Request Confidential Communications – You have the right to request how we should send communication about medical matters, and where you would like those communications sent. To request confidential communications, you must make your request to the Privacy Officer at this practice.

We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We reserve the right to deny a request if it imposes an unreasonable burden on the practice.

Right to Inspect and Copy – You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually this includes medical and billing records but does not include psychotherapy notes, information compiled for use in a civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding, and protected health information to which access is prohibited by law. To inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about you, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at this practice. If you request a copy of the information, we reserve the right to charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed health care professional chosen by the practice will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to Amend – If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the Privacy Officer at this practice. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request. We may deny your request if the information was not created by us, is not part of the medical information kept at this practice, is not a part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect or copy, or which we deem to be accurate and complete. If we deny your request for amendment, you have a right to file a statement of disagreement with us. We may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of such rebuttal. Statements of disagreements and any corresponding rebuttals will be kept on file and sent out with any future authorized requests for information pertaining to the appropriate portion of your record.

Right to an Accounting of Non-Standard Disclosures – You have the right to request a list of the disclosures we made of medical information about you. To request a list, you must submit your request to the Privacy Officer at the practice. Your request must state the time period for which you want to receive a list of disclosures that is not longer than six years, and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (example: on paper or electronically). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we reserve the right to charge you for the cost of providing this list.

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Right to a Paper Copy of this Notice – You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy of the current Notice, please request one and it shall be given to you.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this Notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice, with the effective date in the header of the first page.

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Acknowledgment of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) regulations require us to provide you, the patient or personal representative, a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices and for you to sign as acknowledging receipt of the document.

By signing below, I understand that Vista Del Mar Medical Group, Inc. ("VDMMG") may share my health information for treatment, billing, and healthcare operations. I have been provided a copy of VDMMG's Notice of Privacy Practices that describes how my health information is used and shared. I understand that VDMMG has the right to change this notice at any time. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of and fully read and understood the Vista Del Mar Medical Group Notice of Privacy Practices.

_____ Printed Name (Patient/Parent or Legal Guardian)	_____ Date
_____ Signature (Patient/Parent or Legal Guardian)	_____ Relationship to Patient

AUTHORIZATION TO LEAVE MESSAGES

I authorize Vista Del Mar Medical Group, Inc. to leave messages regarding my protected health information (PHI) on my telephone answering machine or with a family member or other designated party listed below:

_____ Name	_____ Relationship	_____ Phone #
_____ Name	_____ Relationship	_____ Phone #

INABILITY TO OBTAIN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (to be completed by office staff)

Complete only if no signature is obtained. If it is not possible to obtain the individual's acknowledgement, describe the good faith efforts made to obtain the individual's acknowledgement, and the reasons why the acknowledgement was not obtained.

Reasons why the acknowledgement was not obtained:

- Patient or Legal Representative received Notice of Privacy Practices but refused to sign Acknowledgement of Receipt
- Patient or Legal Representative unavailable to acknowledge receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices
- Other: _____

_____ Printed Name (Patient/Parent or Legal Guardian)	_____ Date
_____ VDMMG Employee Signature	