



# Great Falls Physical Therapy

## HIPAA: SUMMARY OF PRIVACY NOTICE

### 1. OUR LEGAL DUTY

Our practice is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of current and former patients' health and financial information as required by our internal policies and applicable law. We are also required by federal law to give you this notice explaining your rights, our legal duties and privacy practices. We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all PHI(Personal Health Information) that we maintain, including PHI we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information contained in this Notice.

### 2. USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

We use and disclose PHI about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example: Treatment: We may use or disclose your PHI to a physician or other healthcare provider providing treatment to you. Payment: We may use and disclose your PHI to obtain payment for services we provide to you. Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose your PHI in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities. Your Authorization: In addition to our use of your PHI for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your PHI 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 a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your PHI for any reason except those described in this Notice. To Your Family and Friends: We must disclose your PHI to you, as described in the Patient Rights section (Block 3) of this Notice. We may disclose your PHI 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. Persons Involved In Care: We may use or disclose PHI 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 PHI, 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 PHI based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only PHI 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 PHI. Marketing Health-Related Services: We will not use your PHI for marketing communications without your written authorization. Required by Law: We may use or disclose your PHI when we are required to do so by law. Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose your PHI to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your PHI to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others. National Security: We may disclose to the military authorities the PHI of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials PHI required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and

other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement official having lawful custody of protected PHI of inmate or patient under certain circumstances. Appointment reminders: We may use or disclose your PHI to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemails, e-mails, postcards, or letters).

### **3. PATIENT RIGHTS**

**Access:** You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your protected PHI, with limited exceptions. If you request a copy of your information, we may charge you a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other costs incurred by us because of complying with your request. Requests for access to your protected PHI must be made in writing. **Accounting of Disclosures:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your PHI for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years. You must submit your request in writing to the contact information provided at the top of this notice. Your first request within a 12-month period is free of charge, but our practice may charge you for additional request made within the same 12-month period. Our practice will notify you of the costs involved with additional requests, and you may withdraw your request before you incur any costs. **Requesting Restrictions:** You have the right to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your PHI to only certain individuals involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as family members and friends. We are not required to agree to your request; however, if we do agree, we are bound by our agreement except when otherwise required by law, in emergencies, or when the information is necessary to treat you. In order to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your PHI, you must make your request in writing to the contact information provided at the top of this notice. Your request, in a clear and concise manner should describe; the information you wish restricted, whether you are requesting to limit our practice's use, disclosure or both or to whom you want the limits to apply.

**Alternative Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your PHI by alternative means or to alternative locations. Your request must be in writing and specify the alternative means or location and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request. **Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your PHI. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances. **Electronic Notice:** If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are still entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

### **4. QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS**

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us. If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your PHI or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your PHI or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the top of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request. We support your right to the privacy of your PHI. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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**Printed Name**

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**Signature**

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**Date**