

# **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.**

This notice takes effect on your date of service and remains in effect until we replace it.

## **OUR PLEDGE REGARDING MEDICAL INFORMATION**

The privacy of your medical information is important to us. We understand that your medical information is personal and we are committed to protecting it. We create a record of the care and services you receive at our organization. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice will tell you about the ways we may use and share medical information about you. We also describe your rights and certain duties we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

## **OUR LEGAL DUTY**

### **LAW REQUIRES US TO:**

1. Keep your medical information private.
2. Give you this notice describing our legal duties, privacy practices, and your rights regarding your medical information.
3. Follow the terms of the current notice.

### **WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**

1. Change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided that the changes are permitted by law.
2. Make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all medical information that we keep, including information previously created or received before the changes.

### **NOTICE OF CHANGE TO PRIVACY PRACTICES:**

1. Before we make an important change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and make the new notice available upon request.

## **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION**

The following section describes different ways that we use and disclose medical information. Not every use or disclosure will be listed. However, we have listed all of the different ways we are permitted to use and disclose medical information. We will not use or disclose your medical information for any purpose not listed below, without your specific written authorization. Any specific written authorization you provide may be revoked at any time by writing to us at the address provided at the end of this notice.

**FOR TREATMENT:** We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other people who are taking care of you. We may also share medical information about you to your other health care providers to assist them in treating you.

**FOR PAYMENT:** We may use and disclose your medical information for payment purposes. A bill may be sent to you or a third-party payer. The information on or accompanying the bill may include your medical information.

**FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS:** We may use and disclose your medical information for our health care operations. This might include measuring and improving quality, evaluating the performance of employees, conducting training programs, and getting the accreditation, certificates, licenses, and credentials we need to serve you.

**COURT ORDERS AND JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS:** We may disclose medical information in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process, under certain circumstances.

**PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES:** As required by law, we may disclose your medical information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability, including child abuse or neglect. We may also disclose your medical information to persons subject to jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of reporting adverse events associated with product defects or problems, to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacements, to track products, or to conduct activities required by the Food and Drug Administration.

**VICTIMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:** We may use and disclose medical information 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.

**WORKERS COMPENSATION:** We may disclose health information when authorized or necessary to comply with laws relating to workers compensation or other similar programs.

**HEALTH OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES:** We may disclose medical information to an agency providing health oversight for oversight activities authorized by law, including audits, civil administrative, or criminal investigations or proceedings, inspections, licensure or disciplinary actions, or other authorized activities.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Under certain circumstances, we may disclose health information to law enforcement officials. These circumstances include reporting required by certain laws (such as the reporting of certain types of wounds), pursuant to certain subpoenas or court orders, reporting limited information concerning identification and location at the request of a law enforcement official, reports regarding suspected victims of crimes at the request of a law enforcement official, reporting death, crimes on our premises, and crimes in emergencies.

**APPOINTMENT REMINDERS:** We may use and disclose medical information for purposes of sending you appointment postcards or otherwise reminding you of your appointments.

**ALTERNATIVE AND ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SERVICES:** We may use and disclose medical information to furnish you with information about health-related benefits and services that may have interest to you, and to describe or recommend treatment alternatives.

## **YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS**

### **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**

1. Look at or get copies of certain parts of your medical information by contacting and signing a release at Triangle Endoscopy Center business office at (919) 544-4887.
2. Receive a list of all the times we or our business associates shared your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, and health care operations and other specified exceptions.
3. Request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your medical information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in the case of an emergency).
4. Request that we communicate with you about your medical information by different means or to different locations. Your request that we communicate your medical information to you by different means or at different locations must be made in writing to Triangle Endoscopy Center.
5. Request that we change certain parts of your medical information. We may deny your request if we did not create the information you want changed or for certain other reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you a written explanation. You may respond with a statement of disagreement that will be added to the information you wanted changed. If we accept your request to change the information, we will make reasonable efforts to tell others, including people you name, of the change and to include the changes in any future sharing of that information.

## **QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS**

If you have any questions about this notice or if you think that we may have violated your privacy rights please contact us. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Triangle Endoscopy Center**  
**249 E. NC Hwy 54, Suite 210**  
**Durham, NC 27713**  
**Phone: (919)544-4887**  
**Fax: (919)433-8577**  
**John Lytle RN Manager**