

NEUROSURGICAL ASSOCIATES OF SAN ANTONIO, P.A

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.

Neurosurgical Associates of San Antonio, P. A.(NASA) uses and discloses health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment for treatment, for administrative purposes, and to evaluate the quality of care that you receive. You may request a copy of this notice at any time.

How Neurosurgical Associates of San Antonio, P. A. May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

Treatment: NASA may use and disclose your medical information to those involved in your treatment. For example, the physicians in our office are specialists. When we provide treatment, we may request that your primary care and/or referring physician share your medical information with us. Also we may provide your primary care and/or referring physician information about your particular condition so that he/she can appropriately treat you.

Payment: NASA may use and disclose your medical information to bill and collect payment for the services provided to you. For example, a claim may be sent to you or a third-party payor, such as an insurance company or health plan. The information on the claim may contain information that identifies you, your diagnosis, and treatment provided.

Medication History: NASA has implemented an electronic medical record system in order to improve the quality of our services and patient care. This system also allows us to collect and review your "medication history." A medication history is a list of prescription medicines that we or other physicians have prescribed for you. This list is collected from a variety of sources, including your pharmacy and your health insurer. An accurate medication history is very important to helping us treat you properly and in avoiding potentially dangerous drug interactions. By signing this consent form you give us permission to collect, and give your pharmacy and your health plan permission to disclose, information about your prescriptions that have been filled at any pharmacy or covered by any health insurance plan. This information will become part of your medical record. Your medication history might not include over the counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies which you will be required to list on our patient intake form. Therefore it is important for you to disclose all medications you are currently taking (prescribed and over the counter).

Health Care Operations: NASA may use and disclose health information about you for operational purposes. For example, your health information may be disclosed to members of the medical staff, risk or quality improvement personnel, and others to:

- Evaluate the performance of our staff
- Assess the quality of care and outcomes in your case and similar cases
- Learn how to improve our facilities and services
- Determine how to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care we provide.

Appointment Reminders and Treatment Calls. NASA may contact you by telephone, mail, or both to provide appointment reminders, information about your treatment plan, medication or test results. When contacts are made via telephone, messages may be left on answering machines with physician name, person calling, and telephone number.

Disclosures That Can Be Made Without Your Authorization: There are situations in which we are permitted by law to disclose or use your medical information without your written authorization or an opportunity to object. In other situations we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing any identifiable health information about you. If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose information, you may later revoke that authorization, in writing, to stop futures uses and disclosures. However, any revocation will not apply to disclosure or uses already made or taken in reliance on that authorization.

Public Health, Abuse or Neglect, and Health Oversight: NASA may use or disclose your medical information for public health activities such as assisting public health authorities or other legal authorities to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability, or for other health oversight activities.

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Legal Proceedings and Law Enforcement: NASA may disclose your medical information in the course of judicial or administrative proceedings in response to an order of the court or appropriate legal process. NASA may also release information if we believe the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen an imminent threat to the health or safety of a person.

Research, Organ Donation, Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors. When a research project and its privacy protection has been approved by an Institutional Review Board or privacy board, we may release medical information to researchers. Your health information may be used or disclosed

for organ or tissue donation purposes. Health information may be disclosed to funeral directors or coroners to enable them to carry out their duties.

Required by Law: NASA may release your medical information where the disclosure is required by law.

Workers Compensation: NASA may disclose your medical information as required by The Texas workers' compensation law.

Other Uses. Other uses and disclosures will be made only with your written authorization and you may revoke the authorization except to the extent NASA has taken action in reliance on such.

Your Rights Under Federal Privacy Regulations

You have the right to:

- Request that we restrict or limit how your protected health information is used or disclosed for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. We do not have to agree to this restriction, but if we do agree, we will comply with your request under emergency circumstances
- Inspect and obtain a copy of your health record
- Request that your health record be amended. Any such request must be made in writing to NASA's Privacy Officer
- Request communication of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations
- Receive an accounting of disclosures made of your health information.

Complaints

If you are concerned that your privacy rights have been violated, you may contact NASA's Privacy Officer. You may also send a written complaint to the United States Department of Health and Human Services. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint with the government or us.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HIPAA Complaint
7500 Security Blvd., C5-24-04
Baltimore, MD 21244

Our Promise to You

NASA is required by law and regulation to protect the privacy of your medical information, to provide you with this notice of our privacy practices with respect to protected health information, and to abide by the terms of the notice of privacy practices in effect.

NASA may change its policies and this notice at any time and have those revised policies apply to all the protected health information we maintain. If or when we change our notice, we will post the new notice in the office where it can be seen.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or want to make a request pursuant to the rights described above, please contact:

Rosa Tealer Privacy Officer
4410 Medical Drive, Suite 610
San Antonio, TX 78229
Phone: 210-614-2453
Fax: 210-477-5792
Email: rlb@saneuro.com

This notice is effective on April 14, 2003