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## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

Our office is dedicated to protect the privacy rights of our patients and the confidential information entrusted to us. The commitment of each employee to ensure that your health information is never compromised is a principle concept of our practice. We may, from time to time, amend our privacy policies and practices but will always inform you of any changes that might affect your rights.

### **Protecting Your Personal Healthcare Information**

We use and disclose the information we collect from you only as allowed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and the state of Virginia. This includes issues relating to your treatment, payment, and our dental care operations. Your personal health information will never be otherwise given to anyone—even family members—without written consent. You, of course, may give written authorization for us to disclose your information to anyone you choose, for any purpose.

Our office and electronic systems are secure from unauthorized access and our employees are trained to make certain that the confidentiality of your records is always protected. Our privacy policy and practices apply to all former, current, and future patients, so you can be confident that your protected health information will never be improperly disclosed or released.

### **Collecting Protected Health Information**

We will only request personal information needed to provide our standard of quality dental care, implement payment activities, conduct normal dental practices operations, and comply with the law. This may include your name, address, telephone number(s), Social Security Number, employment data, medical history, health records, etc. While most of the information will be collected from you, we may obtain information from third parties if it is deemed necessary. Regardless of the source, your personal information will always be protected to the full extent of the law.

### **Disclosure of Your Protected Health Information**

As stated above, we may disclose information as required by law. We are obligated to provide information to law enforcement and government officials under certain circumstances. We will not use your information for marketing purposes without your consent.

We may use and/or disclose your health information to file insurance claims, communicate reminders about your appointments including answering machines, voicemail messages, postcards, e-mail and text messaging.

### **Patient Rights**

You have the right to request copies of your healthcare information; to request copies in a variety of formats; and to request a list of instances in which we, or our business associates, have disclosed your protected information for uses other than stated above. All such requests must be in writing. We may charge for your copies in an amount allowed by law. If you believe your rights have violated, we urge you to notify us immediately. You can also notify the US Department of Health and Human Services.

We thank you for being a patient in our office. Please let us know if you have any questions concerning your privacy rights and the protection of your personal health information.

*Darcy Amacher, DDS*