Notice of Privacy Practices

Mountain Midwifery Center

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.

The office is permitted by federal privacy laws to make uses and disclosures of your health information for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. Protected health information is the information we create and obtain in providing our services to you. Such information may include documenting your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment and applying for future care or treatment. It also includes billing documents for those services.

Examples of uses of your Health Information for Treatment Purposes are:

• A nurse obtains treatment information about you and records it in a health record.
• During the course of your treatment, the practitioner determines he/she will need to consult with another specialist in the area. He/she will share the information with such specialist and obtain his/her input.

Example of Use of Your Health Information for Payment Purposes: We submit requests for payment to your health insurance company. The health insurance company (or other business associate helping us obtain payment) requests information from us regarding medical care given. We will provide information to them about you and the care given.

Example of Use of Your Information for Health Care Operations: We obtain services from our insurers or other business associates such as quality assessment, quality improvement, outcome evaluation, protocol and clinical guideline development, training programs, credentialing, medical review, legal services and insurance. We will share information about you with such insurers or other business associates as necessary to obtain these services.

Your Health Information Rights

The health and billing records we maintain are the physical property of the office. The information in it, however, belongs to you. You have the right to:

• Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your health information by delivering the request to our office – we are not required to grant the request, but we will comply with any request granted.
• Obtain a paper copy of the current Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information (“Notice”) by making a request at our office.
• Request that you be allowed to inspect and receive a copy your health record and billing record – you may exercise this right by delivering the request to our office.
• Appeal a denial of access to your protected health information, except in certain circumstances
• Request that your health care record be amended to correct incomplete or incorrect information by delivering request to our office. We may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that: 1) was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment. 2) Is not part of the health information kept by or for the office 3) is not part of the information that you would be permitted to inspect and obtain a copy of. 4) Is accurate and complete.

• If your request is denied, your will be informed of the reason for the denial and will have an opportunity to submit a statement of disagreement to be maintained with your records.

• Request that communication for your health information be made by alternative mans or at an alternative location by delivering the request in writing to our office.

• Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information as required to be maintained by law by delivering a request to our office. An accounting will not include uses and disclosers of information for treatment, payment or operations; disclosures or uses made pursuant to an authorization signed by you; uses or disclosures made in a facility directory or to family members or friends relevant to that person’s involvement in your care or in payment for such care; or uses or disclosers to notify family or others responsible for your care of your location, condition or your death. Revoke authorizations that you made previously to use or disclose information by delivering a written revocation to actions that has already been taken.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact our Privacy Officer or our records department at 303-788-0600 or at our physical address, in person or in writing during regular business hours. We will inform you of the steps that need to be taken to exercise your rights.

Our Responsibilities

_The office is required to:_

• Maintain the privacy of your health information as required by law
• Provide you with a notice as to our duties and privacy practices as to the information we collect and maintain about you
• Abide by the terms of this notice
• Notify you if we cannot accommodate a requested restriction of request
• Accommodate your reasonable requests regarding methods to communicate health information with you

We reserve the right to amend, change or eliminate provisions in our privacy practices and access practices and to enact new provisions regarding the protected health information we maintain. If our information practices change, we will amend our notice. You are entitled to receive a revised copy of the Notice by calling and requesting a copy of our Notice or by visiting our office and picking up a copy.

To Request information or File a Complaint

If you have questions, would like additional information or want to report a problem regarding the handling of your information, you may contact our Privacy Officer at 303-788-0600.

Additionally if you believe your privacy rights have been violated you may file a written complaint at our office by delivering the written complaint to our Privacy Officer.
You may also file a complaint by mailing it or e-mailing it to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, whose street address and email address is: Office for Civil Rights – U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue S.W. – Room 509F, HHH Building – Washington D.C. 20201

- We cannot and will not require you to waive the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a condition of receiving treatment from the office.
- We cannot and will not retaliate against your for filing a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Other Disclosures and Uses

Communication with Family

Using our best judgment, we may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relevant to that person’s involvement in your care or in payment for such care if you do not object or in an emergency.

Notification

Unless you object we may use or disclose your protected health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or other person responsible for your care, about your location and about your general condition or your death.

Research

We may disclose information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your protected health information.

Disaster Relief

We may use and disclose your protected health information to assist in disaster relief efforts.

Organ Procurement Organizations

Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose your protected health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engages in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

We may disclose to the FDA your protected health information relating to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, products and product defects or post-marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs or replacements.

Workers Compensation

If you are seeking compensation through Workers Compensation we may disclose your protected health information to the extent necessary to comply with laws related to Workers Compensation.
**Public Health**

As authorized by law we may disclose your protected health informality to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; to report reactions to medications or problems with products; to notify people of recalls; to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or who is at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

**Abuse & Neglect**

We may disclose your protected health information to public authorities as allowed by law to report abuse or neglect.

**Employers**

We may release health information about you to your employer if we provide health care services to you at the request of your employer and the health care services are provided either to conduct an evaluation relating to medical surveillance of the workplace or to evaluate whether you have a work-related illness or injury. In such circumstances we will give you written notice of such release of information to your employer. Any other disclosures to your employer will be made only if you execute a specific authorization for the release of that information to your employer.

**Correctional Institutions**

If you are an inmate of a correctional institution we may disclose to the institution or its agents the protected health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of other individuals.

**Law Enforcement**

We may disclose your protected health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law, such as when required by a court order, or in cases involving felony prosecution or to the extent an individual is in the custody of law enforcement.

**Health Oversight**

Federal law allows us to relate your protected health information to appropriate health oversight agencies or for health oversight activities.

**Judicial/Administrative Proceedings**

We may disclose your protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding as allowed or required by law, with your authorization, or as directed by a proper court order.

**Serious Threat**

To avert a serious threat to health or safety we may disclose your protected health information consistent with applicable law to prevent or lessen a serious imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.
For Specialized Government Functions

We may disclose your protected health information for specialized government functions as authorized by law such as to Armed Forces personnel for national security purposes or to public assistance program personnel.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors

We may release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release health information about patients to funeral directors as necessary for them to carry out their duties.

Other Uses

Other uses and disclosure, besides those identified in this Notice, will be made only as otherwise required by law or with your written authorization and you may revoke the authorization as previously provided in this Notice under “Your Health Information Rights.”

Photos

In the event that you provide to us photos of yourself or of your family; such as birth announcements, holiday cards or posting on our social media page, you are giving us permission to share them. We will never take photos of you without your express permission. If you do not wish us to display the photos in our office, on our website or on our social media pages please so state when you provide the pictures to our office. At any time you can revoke your permission by notifying our office.

Effective Date 4/29/2015
I have received and read Mountain Midwifery Center’s Notice of Privacy Practices found in my Maternity Guide.

I understand that if I have any questions about the Notice of Privacy Practice I can contact the Privacy Officer or Practice Manager during business hours at 303-788-0600