



HIPAA 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.

Desert Canyon Foot & Ankle is committed to protecting the confidentiality of its patients' health information. This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your health information and rights that you have regarding your health information.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION:

We may use or disclose your health information without your authorization for the following purposes:

Treatment: We will use and disclose your health information to provide, coordinate or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third-party. For example, we may disclose your health information, as necessary, to a home health agency that provides care to you or to a physician to whom you have been referred, to ensure that they have the necessary information to diagnose and treat you.

Payment: Your health information will be used or disclosed, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. For example, we may bill your health plan for the cost of the services we provide to you. We may also contact your health plan to determine whether it will authorize payment for services, to determine the amount of your co-payment or to obtain approval for a hospital admission.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose your health information, as needed, in order to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, training and education, quality assessment activities, risk management, claims management, legal consultation, physician and employee review activities, licensing, regulatory surveys, and other business planning activities. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when your physician is ready to see you.

Appointments and Health-Related Services: We may use your health information to contact you to remind you of an upcoming appointment, to inform you about possible treatment options or alternatives, or to tell you about health-related services available to you.

Family and Friends: We may disclose your health information to a family member or friend who is involved in your medical care or to someone who helps pay for your care. If you do not want us to disclose your medical information to family members or others involved in your care, please contact us.

Business Associates: We enter into contracts with third-party entities known as business associates. These business associates provide services to or perform functions on our behalf, such as our accountants, consultants and attorneys. We may disclose your relevant health information to our business associates once they have agreed in writing to safeguard your medical information. Business associates are also required by law to protect the privacy of your health information.

Required by Law: We will disclose your health information when we are required to do so by federal, state or local law.

Public Health Activities: We may use your health information for public health activities such as reporting communicable diseases, injuries, or disabilities and ensuring the safety of drugs and medical devices.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose your health information to health oversight agency for activities such as audits; civil, administrative or criminal investigations, proceedings or actions; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; or other activities necessary for appropriate oversight as authorized by law.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose your health information to a person or company subject to the FDA to report adverse events, product defects, problems or biologic product deviations; to track FDA-regulated products; to enable product recalls; to make repairs or replacement; to conduct post-marketing surveillance information or for other purposes related to the quality, safety or effectiveness of a product or activity regulated by the FDA.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your health information to law enforcement in limited circumstances, such as to identify or locate suspects, fugitives, witnesses or victims of a crime, to report deaths from a crime, to report crime on our premises or in emergency treatment situations.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: We may disclose information about you in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal as expressly authorized by such order. We may also disclose information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process not accompanied by an order of a court of administrative tribunal, under certain circumstances as permitted by law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: We may disclose information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. We may also disclose information about you if it necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.



Disaster Relief Efforts: We may use or disclose your health information to an authorized public or private entity to assist in disaster relief efforts. You may have the opportunity to object unless it would impede our ability to respond to emergency circumstances.

Workers' Compensation: We may disclose your health information as authorized to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar programs established by law.

Military, Veterans, National Security and Other Government Purposes: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release your health information as required by military command authorities or to the Department of Veterans Affairs. We may also disclose medical information to authorized federal officials for intelligence and national security purposes.

Correctional Institutions: If you are or become an inmate of a correctional institution or are in the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose to the institution or law enforcement official information necessary for the provision of health services to you, your health and safety, the health and safety of other individuals and law enforcement on the premises of the institution and the administration and maintenance of the safety, security and good order of the institution.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: We may disclose your health information to a government authority, such as a social service or protective services agency, if we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Other Uses and Disclosures: If we wish to use or disclose your health information for a purpose not discussed in this Notice, we will seek your authorization. Specific examples of uses and disclosures of your health information requiring your authorization include: (i) most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes, private notes of a mental health professional kept separately from medical records; (ii) most uses and disclosures of your health information for marketing purposes; and (iii) disclosures of your health information that constitute the sale of your health information. You may revoke your authorization at any time in writing, except to the extent that we have taken action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS:

Although your health information is our property, you have the right to:

Request access to your health information. You may request to inspect and/or obtain a copy of your health information. If we maintain your health information electronically, you may obtain an electronic copy of the information or ask us to send it to a person or organization that you identify. If you request a copy (paper or electronic) we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee between \$5-50. Any request to access your health information must be in writing and submitted to our office. We will notify you if we cannot accommodate your request.

Request to receive confidential communications: You have the right to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. Such a request must be made in writing and submitted to our office. We will notify you if we cannot accommodate your request.

Request an amendment to your medical information. If you believe that any information in your medical record is incorrect, or if you believe important information is missing, you may request that we correct the existing information or add the missing information. Such a request must be in writing and submitted to our office. We will notify you if we cannot accommodate your request.

Request an accounting of certain disclosures. You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we have made of your health information. Any request for an accounting must be in writing and submitted to our office. The first list in any 12 month period will be provided to you for free, but you may be charged for any additional lists requested during the same 12 month period.

Receive a paper copy of this Notice. You have the right to receive a paper copy of this Notice upon request, even if you agreed to accept this Notice electronically.

Our Responsibilities: We are required to (i) maintain the privacy of your health information as required by law; (ii) provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information, and to abide by the terms of such notice; and (iii) notify you following a breach of your health information that is not secured in accordance with certain security standards. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the provisions of the new Notice effective for all health information that we maintain. If we change the terms of this Notice, the revised Notice will be made available upon request and posted in our practice locations. Copies of the current Notice may be obtained by contacting our office.