

Notice of Privacy Practices HIPAA Statement

Effective Date: January 1, 2009

Progressive Podiatry, P.L.L.C., Brooklyn, NY is committed to respecting the privacy of our patients and maintaining the confidentiality of their protected health information. When you consent to treatment at our facilities you consent to the use of your information as outlined in our Notice of Privacy Practices. If we decide to change our Notice, such changes will be posted here on our web site. You may visit our web site and browse without giving us any personal information.

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.

Who Will Follow This Notice:

This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to Progressive Podiatry and its employees.

Our Pledge Regarding Medical Information:

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. We are committed to protecting medical information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive at our practice. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This Notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by our practice, whether made by our doctors, our staff or other practitioners involved in your care. This Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

We are required by law to:

- Make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private.
- Give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to medical information about you.
- And follow the terms of the Notice that are currently in effect.

How we may use and disclose medical information about you:

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose medical information. For each category of uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

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, health care students, clergy, or others who are involved in your care. For example, a doctor treating you for a broken ankle may need to know if

you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. We also may disclose medical information about you to people outside the practice who may be involved in your medical care after you leave the Hospital, such as long term care facilities or others we or your physician uses to provide services that are part of your care.

For Payment

We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at our offices may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about surgery we performed, so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the surgery. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.

For Health Care Operations

We may use and disclose medical information about you for Hospital operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run the Hospital and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care.

For example, we may use medical information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you or we or our designee may send you a patient satisfaction survey. We may also combine medical information about many Hospital patients to decide what additional services the Hospital should offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, health care students, and other Hospital personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the medical information we have with medical information from other Hospitals to compare how we are doing and see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without learning who the specific patients are.

Appointment Reminders

We may use and disclose medical information to contact you as a reminder that you have an appointment for treatment or medical care at one of our offices.

Treatment Alternatives

We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.

Health-Related Benefits and Services

We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about health related benefits, services, or medical education classes that may be of interest to you.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:

We may release medical information about you to a care giver who may be a friend or family member. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care.

Research

Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose medical information about you for research purposes. For example, a research project may involve comparing the health and recovery of all patients who received one medication to those who received another, for the same condition. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. We will almost always ask for your specific permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are, or will be involved in your care at the Hospital.

As Required By Law

We will disclose medical information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

Special Situations**Organ and Tissue Donation**

If you are an organ donor, we may release medical information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.

Military

If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also release medical information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

Workers' Compensation

We may release medical information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Public Health Risks (Health and Safety to you and/or others)

We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. We may use and disclose medical information about you to agencies when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

These activities generally include the following:

- To prevent or control disease, injury or disability
- To report births and deaths
- To report child abuse or neglect
- To report reactions to medications or problems with products
- To notify people of recalls of products they may be using
- To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition
- To notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure when required or authorized by law.

Health Oversight Activities

We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and Disputes

If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose medical information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose medical information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute.

Law Enforcement

We may release medical information about you if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process
- To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person
- About the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement
- About a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct
- About criminal conduct at the Hospital
- In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors

We may release medical 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 medical information about patients of the Hospital to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

National Security and Intelligence Activities

We may release medical information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services for the President and Others

We may disclose medical information about you to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons or foreign heads of state or conduct special investigations.

Inmates

If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official.

- 1.For the institution to provide you with health care
- 2.To protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others
- 3.For the safety and security of the correctional institution

Other uses of Medical Information

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

Your Rights Regarding Medical Information About You

Right to Inspect and Copy

You have the following rights regarding medical information we maintain about you:

- To inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes medical and billing records, but does not include mental health information.
- To inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about you, you must submit this request in writing to the Medical Records Department. If you request a copy of the information, we will charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.
- We may deny your request to inspect and copy your medical information in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed health care professional chosen by the Hospital will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to Amend

If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for the Hospital.

To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the Director of Medical Records. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment
- Is not part of the medical information kept by or for our practice
- Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy
- Is accurate and complete

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures

You have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures." This is a list of the disclosures we made of medical information about you to others except for purposes of treatment, payment and operations identified above, and other exceptions under federal and state law.

To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to our Park Slope office. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before January 1, 2009. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, or; electronically). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

Right to Request Restrictions

You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about a surgery performed.

We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to the Director of Medical Records. In your request, you must tell us:

1. What information you want to limit
2. Whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both
3. to whom you want the limits to apply, for example, disclosures to your spouse.

Right to Request Confidential Communications

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail.

Please advise our receptionist regarding how or where you wish to be contacted. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice

You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this Notice at any time by requesting a copy from our staff.

Changes to this Notice

We reserve the right to change this Notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice in our office. The Notice will contain on the first page, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date. In addition, each time you come

into our office for treatment or health care services as an inpatient or outpatient, you have the right to request a copy of the current Notice in effect.

Questions or Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, or you have a question, you may contact or submit your complaint in writing to Progressive Podiatry 702 8th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11215 or call 718-840-0660. If we cannot resolve your concern, you also have the right to file a written complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The quality of your care will not be jeopardized nor will you be penalized for filing a complaint.

I have received and reviewed a copy of Progressive Podiatry's HIPAA Compliance Policy and have signed below to verify this.

Patient's name, signature and date

Employee Witness, signature and date