



Privacy Notice to Patients

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED BY COASTAL PEDIATRICS AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY

Effective Date: March 6, 2006

Under the HIPAA Privacy regulations, Coastal Pediatrics and all similar health care providers are required by federal law to maintain the privacy of your child's protected health information (PHI) and will abide by the terms in the Privacy Notice.

Please be advised that Coastal Pediatrics may use your child's PHI in rendering treatment to your child. For example, we are permitted to use your child's PHI in providing your child with medical care/treatment when your child visits our office or when we treat your child in a hospital or nursing facility. Under federal law, we may disclose your child's PHI to you or we can disclose your child's PHI to third parties for treatment. For example, if we refer your child to a specialist, we will forward your child's medical information to such specialists. We can disclose your child's PHI for payment purposes. For example, we will disclose your child's PHI to your insurance provider, your employer, Medicare, Medicaid, or other party responsible for providing your child with health insurance coverage in order for Coastal Pediatrics to be reimbursed for our services rendered to your child. We will also use or disclose your child's PHI when we engage in quality assurance and medical chart reviews, which are part of our health care operations. We may also disclose your child's PHI, when required by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Unless disclosure is required under federal/state law, or certain other exceptions, including law enforcement, we are prohibited from disclosing your child's PHI without your authorization. Our practice may use or disclose your child's PHI in accordance with the specific requirements of the HIPAA rules without Coastal Pediatrics needing to obtain your authorization if the information is:

1. required by law,
2. required for public health purposes,
3. required disclosures about victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence,
4. required by the health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law,
5. required in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding,
6. required for a law enforcement purpose to a law enforcement official,
7. required by a coroner or medical examiner,
8. required by an organ procurement organization for research, and,
9. if disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Additionally, if you are a member of the armed forces, Coastal Pediatrics is permitted to disclose your child's PHI without your consent if deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities to assure an appropriate military mission.

We may also contact you via mail or phone to remind you of appointments with our office or to discuss treatment alternatives. If, for any reason, you do not wish to be contacted via mail or phone, our office personnel will note your request in your chart.

In the event our practice wishes to disclose your child's PHI to another entity besides those referenced above, we are required to obtain your authorization. We would seek to obtain your authorization if Coastal Pediatrics decided to release your child's PHI for reasons other than treatment, payment, or for our practice's operations. For example, if we desired to participate in outside research or a drug study, we would need your written authorization prior to being permitted to release your child's PHI to such outside research facility or drug manufacturer. If you provide us with an authorization, you have the ability to revoke such authorization at any time by sending Coastal Pediatrics a written revocation. However, if we have already released such information pursuant to your prior authorization, the revocation will be effective for all future disclosures.

Please be further advised that you have the ability to access, obtain a copy, inspect and request amendment to your child's medical information that we maintain. Additionally, if you desire, Coastal Pediatrics can provide you with an accounting of all disclosures for treatment, payment or healthcare operations and pursuant to authorization.

If you have a dispute with our practice regarding the use of your child's PHI or a disclosure by Coastal Pediatrics and believe that your child's primary rights have been violated, please contact Dr. Julie Howard, Coastal Pediatrics' Practice Manager. Please understand that Coastal Pediatrics will not retaliate against you in any way for filing a complaint.

Lastly, please be advised that you have the right to designate a personal representative or request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your child's PHI to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations or disclosures by Coastal Pediatrics of your child's PHI to a family member, relative, or a close personal friend. However, we are not required by federal law to agree to your requested designation or restriction. If you request a copy of your child's PHI, you also have the ability to request that we send it to an alternative location (different address) and by alternative means. Additionally, if you have received this notice in an electronic form and you would like a paper copy, please contact Naomi Brist, Coastal Pediatrics' Privacy Contact. Coastal Pediatrics reserves the right to amend this Notice as revised. Notices will be posted in our office and provided to you upon your request.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please direct them to Dr. Julie Howard at (912) 353-7744.