



**Work with medical examiner or funeral director:** We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

**Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests:** We can use or share health information about you for: 1. Workers' compensation claims 2. Law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official 3. Health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law 4. Special government functions such as military, national security and presidential protective services

**Respond to lawsuits and legal action:** We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in a response to a subpoena.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.

We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy and security of your information.

We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.

We will not use or share your information other than described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information visit:  
[www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html).

Changes to the Terms of this Notice:

We can change the terms of this notice and the changes will apply to all the information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request in our office.

This notice of privacy practices applies to the following organization:

Spring Spine Center

281.376.1288

Contact: [cynthia.springspinecenter@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.springspinecenter@gmail.com)



# HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

**Your Privacy IS Important...  
It's the Law!**

**Notice of Privacy Practices**



6535 FM 2920, Suite 200  
Spring, TX 77379  
Phone: 281.376.1288  
Fax: 281.378.4706

# HIPAA Patient Privacy Notice

**Your Information, Your Rights, Our Responsibilities:** This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review carefully.

## YOUR RIGHTS:

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

**Get a paper copy of your medical record:** You can ask to see or get a paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this. We will provide a copy or summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

**Ask us to correct your medical record:** You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this. We may say “no” to your request, but we will tell you in writing within 60 days.

**Request confidential communication:** You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example: home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address. We will say “yes” to all reasonable requests.

**Ask us to limit what we use or share:** You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment or our operations. We are not required to agree to your request and we may say “no” if it would affect your care. If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.

**Get a list of those with whom we've shared information:** You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we have shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with and why. We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment and health care operations and certain other disclosures (such as any you ask us to make). We will provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another within 12 months.

**Get a copy of this privacy notice:** You can ask for a copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

**Choose someone to act for you:** If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure the person has the authority and can act for you before we take any action.

**File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated:** You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information listed on the back of this pamphlet. You can file a complaint with the US Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to: 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20201, by calling 1-877-696-6775 or by visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/). We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

## YOUR CHOICES:

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions:

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to: 1. Share the information with your family, close friends or others involved in your care. 2. Share the information in a disaster relief situation. 3. Include your information in a hospital directory. If you are unable to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health and safety.

In these cases we never share your information unless you give us written permission: 1. Marketing purposes. 2. Sale of your information. 3. Most sharing of psychotherapy notes.

In the case of fundraising: We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

## OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES:

How do we typically use or share your health information? We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

**Treat you:** We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you. (Example: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.)

**Run our organization:** We can use or share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary. (Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.)

**Bill for your services:** We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities. (Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.)

How else can we use or share your health information? We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information visit: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

**Help with public health and safety issues:** We can share health information about you for certain situations such as: preventing disease, helping with product recalls, reporting adverse reactions to medications, reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, or preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety.

**Do research:** We can use or share your information for health research.

**Comply with the law:** We will share information about you if state or federal law requires it, including with Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we are complying with federal privacy law.

**Respond to organ and tissue donation requests:** We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.