

NOTICE OF PRIVACY

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

Please review this notice carefully.

Your health record contains personal information about you and your health. This information about you that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services is referred to as Protected Health Information ("PHI"). This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your PHI in accordance with applicable law and the AAMFT Code of Ethics. It also describes your rights regarding how you may gain access to and control your PHI.

I am required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. I am required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. I reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Any new Notice of Privacy Practices will be effective for all PHI that I maintain at that time. I will provide you with a copy of the revised Notice of Privacy Practices by posting a copy on my website, sending a copy to you in the mail upon request or providing one to you at your next appointment.

HOW I MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

For Treatment. Your PHI may be used and disclosed by those who are involved in your care for the purpose of providing, coordinating, or managing your health care treatment and related services. This includes consultation with clinical supervisors or other treatment team members. I may disclose PHI to any other consultant only with your authorization. I may also contact you to remind you of your appointments or to provide information to you about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

For Payment. I may use and disclose PHI so that we can receive payment for the treatment services provided to you. This will only be done with your authorization. Examples of payment-related activities are: making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, processing claims with your insurance company, reviewing services provided to you to determine medical necessity, or undertaking utilization review activities. If it becomes necessary to use collection processes due to lack of payment for services, I will only disclose the minimum amount of PHI necessary for purposes of collection.

For Health Care Operations. I may use or disclose, your PHI as needed to facilitate the efficient operation of my practice or to confirm compliance with applicable laws.

Required by Law. Under the law, I must disclose your PHI to you upon your request. In addition, I must make disclosures to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of investigating or determining my compliance with the requirements of the Privacy Rule.

Without Authorization. Following is a list of the categories of uses and disclosures permitted by HIPAA without an authorization. Applicable law and ethical standards permit me to disclose information about you without your authorization only in a limited number of situations.

I may use and /or disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization for the following reasons:
When disclosure is required by federal, state or local laws; judicial, board or administrative proceedings or law enforcement. For example:

Child Abuse or Neglect. If disclosure is mandated by the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law. Such disclosures are made to a state or local agency that is authorized by law to receive such reports.

Elder Abuse (65) or Dependent Adult Abuse. If I have reasonable suspicion of elder or dependent adult abuse.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings. I may disclose your PHI pursuant to a subpoena, court order, administrative order or similar process.

Duty to Warn. I may disclose PHI if disclosure is compelled or permitted by the fact that you are in such mental or emotional condition as to be dangerous to yourself or the person or property of others, and if I determine that disclosure is necessary to prevent the threatened danger.

Deceased Patients. I may need to disclose PHI regarding deceased patients to coroners, medical examiners, or funeral directors and to organizations relating to organ, eye, or tissue donations or transplants.

Medical Emergencies. I may use or disclose your protected health information in a medical emergency situation to medical personnel only in order to prevent serious harm. I will try to provide you a copy of this notice as soon as reasonably practical after the resolution of the emergency.

Health Oversight. If required, I may disclose PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as audits, investigations, and inspections. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies and organizations that provide financial assistance to the program, and peer review organizations performing utilization and quality control.

Law Enforcement. I may disclose PHI to a law enforcement official as required by law, in compliance with a subpoena, court order, administrative order or similar document, for the purpose of identifying a suspect, material witness or missing person, in connection with the victim of a crime, in connection with a deceased person, in connection with the reporting of a crime in an emergency, or in connection with a crime on the premises.

Specialized Government Functions. I may review requests from U.S. military command authorities if you have served as a member of the armed forces, authorized officials for national security and intelligence reasons and to the Department of State for medical suitability determinations, and disclose your PHI based on your written consent, mandatory disclosure laws and the need to prevent serious harm. I may disclose your PHI to worker's compensation and disability programs, or to correctional facilities if you are an inmate.

Public Health. If required, I may use or disclose your PHI to a public health authority authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, or if directed by a public health authority, to a government agency that is collaborating with that public health authority.

Public Safety. I may disclose your PHI if necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. If information is disclosed to prevent or lessen a serious threat it will be disclosed to a person or persons reasonably able to prevent or lessen the threat, including the target of the threat.

Appointment Reminders. I am permitted to contact you to provide appointment reminders or to inquire about missed sessions.

If disclosure is otherwise specifically required by law.

Uses and Disclosures that Require You to Have the Opportunity to Object :

Research. PHI may only be disclosed after a special approval process.

Disclosures to family, friends, and others. I may use or disclose your PHI to a family member or friend or other person who you indicate is involved in your care or responsible for the payment for your health care unless you object. Retroactive consent may be obtained in emergency situations.

With Authorization. Uses and disclosures not specifically permitted by applicable law will be made only with your written authorization, which may be revoked, in writing, to stop any future uses and disclosures.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

You have the following rights regarding PHI I maintain about you. To exercise any of these rights, please submit your request in writing to: Holly Pedersen, PhD, MFT 61 Renato Court #2, Redwood City, CA 94061.

Right of Access to Inspect and Copy. You have the right, which may be restricted only in exceptional circumstances, to inspect and copy PHI that is maintained in a "designated record set". A designated record set contains mental health/medical and billing records and any other records that are used to make decisions about your care. Your right to inspect and copy PHI will be restricted only in those situations where there is compelling evidence that access would cause serious harm to you. I may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for copies. If your records are maintained electronically, you may also request an electronic copy of your PHI.

Right to Amend. If you feel that the PHI I have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information although I am not required to agree to the amendment. If I deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us. I may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request an accounting of certain of the disclosures that I make of your PHI. I may charge you a reasonable fee if you request more than one accounting in any 12-month period.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the use or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations. I am not required to agree to your request unless the request is to restrict disclosure of PHI to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations, and the PHI pertains to a health care item or service that you paid for out of pocket. In that case, I am required to honor your request for a restriction.

Right to Request Confidential Communication. You have the right to request that I communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location.

Breach Notification. If there is a breach of unsecured protected health information concerning you, I may be required to notify you of this breach, including what happened and what you can do to protect yourself.

Right to a Copy of this Notice. You have the right to a copy of this notice.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe I have violated your privacy rights, you have the right to file a complaint in writing to me at 617 Renato Court #107, Redwood City 94063 or with the Secretary of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201 or by calling (202) 619-0257.

I will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Receipt and Acknowledgment of Notice

I hereby acknowledge that I have received and have been given an opportunity to read a copy of Holly Pedersen's Notice of Privacy Practices. I understand that if I have any questions regarding this Notice or my privacy rights, I can contact Holly Pedersen at 61 Renato Court #2, Redwood City CA 94061.

Client (or parent/guardian) Signature **Date**

Therapist Signature **Date**

It is your right to refuse to sign this document. Client was given Privacy Notice but refuses to acknowledge receipt:

Therapist Signature **Date**