

Chelsea Dermatology

Dr. Virgil A. Hatcher

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.

Effective April 14, 2003

The privacy of your medical information is important to us. You may be aware that U.S government regulators established a privacy rule (HIPPA) governing protected health information (PHI). This notice tells you how it may be used, and about certain rights that you have.

A HIPPA officer has been named for our office, and that is the person to whom all inquiries and complaints should be directed. You can contact the HIPPA officer at 212-675-4244 if desire further information.

Use and Disclosure of Protected Information

Federal law provides that we may use your medical information (PHI) for your treatment without further specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example if we refer you to a specialist, we may provide laboratory or test data to that specialist (subject to more stringent New York laws, such as restriction of disclosure of information regarding HIV/AIDS).

Federal law provides that we may use your medical information to obtain payment for our services without further specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example under a health plan we may be required to provide the insurer with a diagnostic code for the patient's visits as well as a description of the services rendered.

Federal law provides that we may use your medical information for the health care operations without specific notice to you, or written authorization by you. For example, our accounts may see your name, dates of treatment and procedure codes during audits of our books.

We may use or disclose your medical information, without further notice to you, or specific authorization by you, where:

1. required by law
2. required for public health purposes
3. required by law to report child abuse;
4. where required by a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law, such as the Department of Health, Office of Professional Discipline or Office of Professional Medical Conduct;
5. required by law in judicial or administrative proceedings;
6. required by law enforcement purposes be law enforcement official;
7. required by a coroner or medical examiner;
8. permitted by law to a funeral director;
9. permitted by law for organ donation purposes;

10. permitted by law to avert a serious threat to health or safety;
11. permitted by law and required by military authorities if you are a member of the armed forces of the United States;
12. [research purposes (if applicable to your practice, see details at 45 CFR & 1640512)]

New York State law provides additional protection for information regarding HIV/AIDS. We will continue to follow New York State law with respect to such information.

We may contact you by mail or phone, at your residence, to remind you of appointments or to provide information about treatment alternatives. Unless you instruct us otherwise, we may leave a message for you on your answering device or with any person who answers the phone at your residence.

You can make reasonable request, in writing, for us to use alternative methods of communication with you in a confidential manner. Space for this is provided below.

Other uses or disclosures of your medical information will be made only with your written authorization. You have the right to revoke any written authorization that you give.

Rights that you have.

You have the right to request restrictions on certain of the uses or disclosures described above. Except as stated below, we are not required to agree to such restrictions.

You have the right to inspect and obtain copies of your medical information (a reasonable fee will be charged).

You have the right to request amendments to your medical information. Such request must be in writing, and must state the reason for the requested amendment. We will notify you as to whether we agree or disagree with the requested amendment. If we disagree with any requested amendment, we will further notify you of your rights.

You have the right to request an accounting of any disclosures we make of your medical information, except for: disclosures we make to you, or to carry out treatment, payment health care operations or as requested by your written authorization, or as permitted or required under 45 CFR & 164.502, or for emergency or notification purposes, or for national security or intelligence purposes as permitted by law, or to correctional facilities or law enforcement officials as permitted by law [or for research or public health purposes after being de-identified or limited to remove personally identifiable information] or disclosures made before April 14, 2003.

If you have received the notice electronically, you have the right to obtain a paper copy from our office.

Obligation that we have.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices.

We are required to abide by the terms of this notice as long as it is currently in effect.

We reserve the right to revise this notice, and to make a new notice effective for all protected health information we maintain. Any revised notice will be posted in our office, and a copy will be available there.

If you complain about violations of your private rights, you have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States. You may also file a complaint with us. Complaints should be directed to the HIPPA Officer at 212-675-4244.

No retaliatory action will be taken against you for any complaint you may make.