

# Kirkland Endodontics

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## Notice of Privacy Practices



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

The Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires all health care records and other individual identifiable health care information used or disclosed to us in any form, whether electronically, on paper, or orally, be kept confidential. This federal law gives you, the patient, significant new rights to understand and control how your health information is used. HIPAA provides penalties for covered entities that misuse your personal health information. As required by HIPAA, we have prepared this explanation of how we are required to maintain the privacy of your health information and how we may disclose your health information.

Without specific written authorization, we are permitted to use and disclose your health care records for the purposes of treatment, payment and healthcare operations.

**Treatment** means providing, coordination, or managing health care and related services by one or more health care providers. For example, we may need to share information with other providers or specialists involved in the continuation of your care.

**Payment** means such activities as obtaining reimbursement for services, confirming coverage, billing or collections activities, and utilization review. For example, treatment information is disclosed when billing a dental plan for your dental services.

**Health Care Operations** include the business aspects of running our practice. For example, patient information may be reviewed periodically for training purposes, or quality assessment.

Unless you request otherwise, we may use or disclose health information to a family member, or other personal representative to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare. In addition, we may use your confidential information to remind you of appointments or to pre-medicate by sending reminder postcards or leaving messages at your home/work or cell. Any other uses or disclosures will be made only with your written authorization. You may revoke such authorization in writing and we are required to honor and abide by that written request, except to the extent that we have already taken actions on your authorization.

You have certain rights in regards to your protected health information, which you can exercise by presenting a written request to our Privacy Officer at the practice address listed below.

The right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of protected health information, including those related to disclosures to family members, other relatives or any other person identified by you. We are, however, not required to agree to a requested restriction. If we do agree to a restriction, we must abide by it unless you agree in writing to remove it.

The right to request to receive confidential communications of protected health information from us by alternative means or at alternative locations.

The rights to access inspect and copy your protected health care information.

The right to request an amendment to your protected health information

The right to receive an accounting of disclosures of protected health information outside of treatment, payment, or health care operations.

The right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us on request.

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

This notice is effective as of April 14, 2003 and we are required to abide by the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of our Notice of Privacy Practices and to make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health care information that we maintain. Revisions to our Notice of Privacy Practices will be posted on the effective date and you may request a written copy of the revised notice from this office.

You have the right to file a formal, written complaint with us at the address listed below, or with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, in the event you feel your privacy rights have been violated. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

For more information please contact: For more information about HIPAA or to make a complaint:

Rita Irvine, Privacy Officer, Munson and Rude PS  
The US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights  
11830 NE 128<sup>th</sup> St Suite 101 200 Independence Ave  
Kirkland, WA 98034 Washington DC 20201  
425 821-7100 877-696-6775 (toll free)