



*Sauer Health Care*  
Bringing Quality and Comfort Together

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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.**

We respect the privacy of your personal health information and are committed to maintaining our clients' confidentiality. This Notice applies to all information and records related to your care that our facility has received or created. It extends to information received or created by our employees, staff, volunteers and physicians. This Notice informs you about the possible uses and disclosures of your personal health information. It also describes your rights and our obligations regarding your personal health information.

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of your protected health information;
- Provide to you this detailed Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices relating to your personal health information; and
- Abide by the terms of the Notice that are currently in effect.
- Notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured protected health information.

### **I. WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR TREATMENT, PAYMENT AND HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS:**

We will make a good faith effort to obtain an Acknowledgement of your receipt of this notice of Privacy Practices on the first day of services. Your response will be documented and we will be allowed to use and disclose your personal health information for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. We have summarized these uses and disclosures below and provide examples of some of the types of uses and disclosures we may make in each of these categories.

For treatment: We will use and disclose your personal health information in providing you with treatment and services. We may disclose your personal health information to facility and non-facility personnel who may be involved in your care, such as physicians, nurses, nurse aides and therapists. For example, a nurse caring for you will report any change in your condition to your physician. We also may disclose personal health information to individuals who will be involved in your care after you leave the facility.

For payment: We may use and disclose your personal health information so that we can bill and receive payment for the treatment and services you receive at the facility. For billing and payment purposes, we

may disclose your personal health information to your representative, an insurance or managed care company, Medicare, Medicaid or another third party payor. For example, we may contact Medicare or your health plan to confirm your coverage or to request prior approval for a proposed treatment or service.

For Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your personal health information for facility operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to manage the facility and to monitor our quality of care. For example, we may use personal health information to evaluate our facility's services, including the performance of our staff.

## **II. WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PURPOSES:**

Facility Directory: Unless you object, we will include certain limited information about you in our facility directory. This information may include your name, your location in the facility and your religious affiliation. Our directory does not include specific medical information about you. We may release information in our directory, except for your religious affiliation, to people who ask for you by name. We may provide the directory information, including your religious affiliation, to any member of the clergy.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care: Unless you object, we may disclose your personal health information to a family member or close personal friend, including clergy, who is involved in your care.

Disaster Relief: We may disclose your personal health information to an organization assisting in a disaster relief effort.

As Required By Law: We will disclose your personal health information as and when required by law to do so.

Public Health Activities: We may disclose your personal health information for public health activities. These activities may include, for example:

- Reporting to a public health or other government authority for preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability or reporting abuse or neglect;
- Reporting to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concerning adverse events or problems with products for tracking products in certain circumstances, to enable product recalls or to comply with other FDA requirements;
- To notify a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition or
- For certain purposes involving workplace illness or injuries.

Reporting Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: If we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, we may use and disclose your personal health information to notify a government authority if required or authorized by law.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose your personal health information to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law. These may include, for example, compliance surveys, audits, investigations, inspections and licensure actions or other legal proceedings. These activities are necessary for government oversight of the health care system, government payment or regulatory programs and compliance with civil rights laws.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: We may disclose your personal health information in response to a court or administrative order. We may disclose information in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process; provided reasonable efforts have been made by either the requesting

party or the facility to contact you about the request or to obtain an order or agreement protecting the information.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your personal health information for certain law enforcement purposes, including:

- As required by law to comply with reporting requirements;
- To comply with a court order, warrant, subpoena, summons, investigative demand or similar legal process;
- To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person;
- When information is requested about the victim of a crime if the individual agrees or under other limited circumstances;
- To report information about a suspicious death;
- To provide information about criminal conduct occurring at the facility;
- To report information in emergency circumstances about a crime; or
- Where necessary to identify or apprehend an individual in relation to a violent crime or an escape from lawful custody.

Research: We may allow personal health information of patients from our facility to be used or disclosed for research purposes provided that the researcher adheres to certain privacy protections. Your personal health information may be used for research purposes only if the privacy aspects of the research have been reviewed and approved by a special facility Privacy Board or facility Institutional Review Board, if the researcher is collecting information in preparing a research proposal, if the research occurs after your death, or if you authorize the use or disclosure.

Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors, Organ Procurement Organizations: We may release your personal health information to a coroner, medical examiner, funeral director, or to an organization involved in the donation of organs and tissue.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: We may use and disclose your personal health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of the public or another person. However, disclosure would be made only to someone able to help prevent or reduce the threat or to law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend a person.

Military and Veterans: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may use and disclose your personal health information as required by military command authorities. We may also use and disclose personal health information about foreign military personnel as required by the appropriate foreign military authority. We might use or disclose personal health information for purposes related to receiving benefits from the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Workers' Compensation: We may use or disclose your personal health information to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or similar programs.

National Security and Intelligence Activities: Protective Services for the President and Others: We may disclose personal health information to authorized federal officials conducting national security and intelligence activities or as needed to provide protection to the President of the United States, certain other persons or foreign heads of states or to conduct certain special investigations.

Fundraising Activities: We may use demographic and dates of service information to contact you in an effort to raise money for the facility and its operations. We may disclose personal health information to

a foundation related to the facility so that the foundation may contact you in raising money for the facility. In doing so, we would only release demographic and contact information, such as your name, address and phone number and the dates you received treatment or services at the facility. Each written fundraising solicitation will include directions on how you can "opt out" of any further fundraising communications.

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose personal health information to remind the client/representative about appointments.

Treatment Alternatives: We may use or disclose personal health information to inform the client/representative about treatment alternatives.

Health-Related Benefits and Services: We may use or disclose personal health information to inform the client/representative about health-related benefits and services.

### **III. YOUR AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR OTHER USES OF PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION:**

We will use and disclose personal health information (other than as described in this Notice or required by law) only with your written Authorization. You may revoke such Authorization to use or disclose personal health information in writing, at any time. If you revoke your Authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your personal health information for the purposes covered by that Authorization, except where we have already relied on the Authorization.

### **IV. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION:**

You have the following rights regarding your personal health information at the facility:

Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to request reasonable restrictions on our use or disclosure of your personal health information for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have certain rights to restrict the personal health information we disclose about you to a family member, friend or other person who is involved in your care or the payment for your care.

We are not required to agree to your requested restriction, but we will abide by any restrictions we agree to except if otherwise necessary for emergency treatment or unless and until the restriction agreement is terminated by either you or us.

Right of Access to Personal Health Information (Electronic or Paper Copy): You have the right to request, either orally or in writing, your medical or billing records or other written information that may be used to make decisions about your care. We must allow you to inspect your records within 24 hours of your request (excluding weekends and holidays). If you request copies of the records, we must provide you with copies within 30 business days of that request. We may charge a reasonable fee for our costs in copying and mailing your requested information.

We may deny your request to inspect or receive copies in certain limited circumstances. If you are denied access to personal health information, in some cases you will have a right to request review of the denial. This review would be performed by a licensed health care professional designated by the facility that did not participate in the decision to deny.

Right to Request Amendment: You have the right to request the facility to amend any personal health information maintained by the facility for as long as the information is kept by or for the facility. You must make your request in writing, and you must state the reason for the requested amendment.

We may deny your request for amendment if the information:

- Was not created by the facility, unless the originator of the information is no longer available to act on your request;

- Is not part of the personal health information maintained by or for the facility;
- Is not part of the information to which you have a right of access; or
- Is already accurate and complete, as determined by the facility.

If we deny your request for amendment, we will give you a written denial including the reasons for the denial and the right to submit a written statement disagreeing with the denial.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures: You have the right to request an “accounting” of certain of our disclosures of your personal health information. This is a listing of certain disclosures of your personal health information made by the facility or by others on our behalf, but does not include disclosures for treatment, payment and health care operations or certain other exceptions.

To request an accounting of disclosures, you must submit a request in writing, stating a time period beginning after April 13, 2003 that is within six years prior to the date of your request. An accounting will include: the disclosure date; the name of the person or entity that received the information and address, if known; a brief description of the information disclosed; a brief statement of the purpose of the disclosure or a copy of the request; or certain summary information concerning multiple similar disclosures. We may charge a reasonable fee for our costs in copying and mailing your requested information.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice: You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. You may request a copy of this Notice at any time.

Right to Request Confidential Communications: You have the right to request in writing that we communicate with you concerning personal health matters in a certain manner or at a certain location. For example, you can request that we contact you only at a certain phone number. We will accommodate your reasonable requests, subject to certain authorized conditions.

## **V. COMPLAINTS:**

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint in writing with the facility or with the Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with the facility, contact the Administrator at:

Sauer Health Care  
1635 W. Service Drive  
Winona, MN 55987  
(507) 454-5540

To file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, send your written complaint to:

Region V, Office of Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 240  
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice phone: (312) 886.2359  
FAX: (312) 886.1807  
TDD: (312) 353.5693  
Email: [OCRComplaint@hhs.gov](mailto:OCRComplaint@hhs.gov)

We will not retaliate against you if you file a complaint.

## **VI. CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE:**

We will promptly revise and distribute (as necessary) this Notice whenever there is a material change to the uses or disclosures, your individual rights, our legal duties or other privacy practices stated in this Notice. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the revised or new Notice provisions effective for all personal health information already received and maintained by the facility as well as for all personal health information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current

Notice in the facility. In addition, we will provide a copy of the revised Notice to all clients/representatives upon this request.

**VII. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

If you have any questions about this Notice or would like further information concerning your privacy rights, please contact the Administrator at:

Sauer Health Care  
1635 W. Service Drive  
Winona, MN 55987  
(507) 454-5540

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