The following categories describe the different ways in which we may use and disclose your PHI.

1. **Treatment.** Our practice may use your PHI to treat you. For example, we may ask you to have laboratory tests (such as blood or urine tests), and we may use the results to help us reach a diagnosis. We might use your PHI in order to write a prescription for you, or we might disclose your PHI to a pharmacy when we order a prescription for you. Many of the people who work for our practice—including, but not limited to, our doctors and nurses—may use or disclose your PHI in order to treat you or to assist others in your treatment. Additionally, we may disclose your PHI to others who may assist in your care, such as your friends or family members involved in your care.

2. **Payment.** Our practice may use and disclose your PHI in order to bill and collect payment for the services and items you may receive from us. For example, we may contact your health insurer to certify that you are eligible for benefits (and for what range of benefits), and we may provide your insurer with details regarding your treatment to determine if your insurer will cover, or pay for, your treatment. We also may use and disclose your PHI to obtain payment from third parties that may be responsible for such costs, such as friends or family members. Also, we may use your PHI to bill you directly for services and items.

3. **Health Care Operations.** Our practice may use and disclose your PHI to operate our business. As examples of the ways in which we may use and disclose your PHI, our practice may use your PHI to evaluate the quality of care you received from us, to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for our practice, or to train new healthcare workers.

4. **Treatment Options.** Our practice may use and disclose your PHI to inform you of potential treatment options or alternatives.

5. **Release of Information to Family/Friends.** Our practice may release your PHI to a friend or family member that is involved in your care, or who assists in taking care of you. For example, a guardian may ask that a neighbor take their parent or child to the physician’s office for treatment. This neighbor may have access to this patient’s medical information. We may also release information to friends or family members involved in your payment for health services we provide.

6. **Disclosures Required By Law.** Our practice will use and disclose your PHI when we are required to do so by federal, state or local law.

D. **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR PHI IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL.**

The following categories describe unique scenarios in which we may use or disclose your PHI without your consent or authorization.

1. **Public Health Risks.** Our practice may disclose your PHI to public health authorities that are authorized by law to collect information for the purpose of:
   - Maintaining vital records, such as births and deaths
   - Reporting child abuse or neglect
   - Preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability
   - Notifying a person regarding potential exposure to a communicable disease
   - Notifying a person regarding a potential risk for spreading or contracting a disease or condition
   - Reporting reactions to drugs or problems with products or devices
   - Notifying individuals if a product or device they may be using has been recalled
   - Notifying appropriate government agency(ies) and authority(ies) regarding the potential abuse or neglect of an adult patient (including domestic violence); however, we will only disclose this information if the patient agrees or we are required or authorized by law to disclose this information
   - Notifying your employer under limited circumstances related primarily to workplace injury or illness or medical surveillance

2. **Health Oversight Activities.** Our practice may disclose your PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Oversight activities can include, for example, investigations, inspections, audits, surveys, licensure and disciplinary actions; civil, administrative, and criminal procedures or actions; or other activities necessary for the government to monitor government programs, compliance with civil rights laws and the health care system in general. We may use your information to report diseases to the health department.

3. **Lawsuits and Similar Proceedings.** Our practice may disclose your PHI in a lawsuit or similar proceeding. Our practice may disclose your PHI in response to a discovery request, subpoena, or similar process by another party involved in the dispute, but only if we have made an effort to inform you of the request or to obtain an order protecting the information the party has requested.

4. **Law Enforcement.** We may release PHI if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:
   - Regarding a crime victim in certain situations, if we are unable to obtain the person’s agreement
   - Concerning a death we believe has resulted from criminal conduct
   - Regarding criminal conduct at our offices
   - In response to a warrant, summons, court order, subpoena or similar legal process
North Florida Cataract Specialists and Vision Care

To identify/locate a suspect, material witness, fugitive or missing person in a particular manner or at a certain location. For instance, you may ask that we contact you at home, rather than work, or to send communications in a sealed envelope instead of a postcard. You may be asked to pay for additional costs incurred to comply with your request. In order to request a type of confidential communication, you must make your request in writing to Privacy Officer. You have the following rights regarding the PHI that we maintain:

1. Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that

2. Requesting Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your PHI to only certain individuals involved in your care, or the location where you wish to be contacted. Our practice will accommodate reasonable requests. You do not need to give a reason for your request.

3. Inspection and Copies. You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of the PHI that may be used to make decisions about you, including patient medical records and billing records, but not including psychotherapy notes. You must submit your request in writing to (Privacy Officer, Address, Phone Number) in order to inspect and/or obtain a copy of your PHI. Our practice may charge a fee for the costs of copying associated with your request.

4. Amendment. You may ask us to amend your health information if you believe it is incorrect or incomplete, and you may request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our practice. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to our Privacy Officer. You must provide us with a reason that supports your request for amendment. Our practice will deny your request if you fail to submit your request and the reason supporting your request in writing. Also, we may deny your request if we ask us to amend information that is in our opinion: (a) accurate and complete; (b) not part of the PHI kept by or for the practice; (c) not part of the PHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or (d) not created by our practice, unless the individual or entity that created the information is not available to amend the information.

5. Accounting of Disclosures. All of our patients have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” An “accounting of disclosures” is a list of certain disclosures that our practice has made of your PHI. We are not required to list use of your PHI as part of the routine patient care, payment or health operations in our practice for paper records. Example of routine patient care, payment, or health operations excluded from accounting from paper charts include: the doctor sharing information with the nurse, the billing department using your information to file your insurance claim, and discussion of your PHI for purposes of improving our healthcare delivery system. In order to obtain an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to Beverley Mayhew, 708 E University Ave, Gainesville, 32601. All requests for an “accounting of disclosures” must state a time period, which may not be longer than six (6) years with paper charts or three years for listings to include treatment and payment from electronic records, from the date of the request, and may not include dates before April 1, 2003. The first list you request within a 12-month period is free of charge, but our practice may charge you for additional lists within the same 12-month period. Our practice will notify you of the costs involved with additional requests, and you may withdraw your request before you incur any costs.

6. Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You are entitled to receive a paper copy of our notice of privacy practices. You will be offered a copy on your first visit to the practice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact our Privacy Officer at (352) 373-4300.

Your Rights Regarding Your PHI

- To identify/locate a suspect, material witness, fugitive or missing person
- In an emergency, to report a crime (including the location or victim(s) of the crime, or the description, identity or location of the perpetrator)

5. Serious Threats to Health or Safety. Our practice may use and disclose your PHI when necessary to reduce or prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another individual or the public. Under these circumstances, we will only make disclosures to a person or organization able to help prevent the threat.

6. National Security. Our practice may disclose your PHI to federal officials for intelligence and national security activities authorized by law. We also may disclose your PHI to federal officials in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state, or to conduct investigations.

E. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

You have the following rights regarding the PHI that we maintain:

1. Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that our practice communicate with you about your health and related issues in a particular manner or at a certain location. For instance, you may ask that we contact you at home, rather than work, or to send communications in a sealed envelope instead of a postcard. You may be asked to pay for additional costs incurred to comply with your request. In order to request a type of confidential communication, you must make written request to our Privacy Officer specifying the requested method of contact, or the location where you wish to be contacted. Our practice will accommodate reasonable requests. You do not need to give a reason for your request.

2. Requesting Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your PHI for treatment, payment or health care operations. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your PHI to only certain individuals involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as family members and friends. You may request to not have trainees or interns involved in your care. We are not required to agree to your request; however, if we do agree, we are bound by our agreement except when otherwise required by law, in emergencies, or when the information is necessary to treat you. In order to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your PHI, you must make your request in writing to our Privacy Officer. Your request must describe in a clear and concise fashion:

(a) the information you wish restricted;
(b) whether you are requesting to limit our practice’s use, disclosure or both; and
(c) to whom you want the limits to apply.

DoctorsManagement