

Ridgeland Family Dentistry

Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how your health information may be used and disclosed and how you can gain access to this information.

Please review it carefully. The privacy of your health information is important to us.

Our Legal Duty

Federal and state law requires us to maintain the privacy of your health information. That law also requires us to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices we describe in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect April 14th, 2003, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such applicable law permits the changes. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and make the new notice available upon request.

You may request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this notice, please contact us using the information at the end of this notice.

Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and health care operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use your health information for treatment or disclose it to a dentist, physician or other health care provider providing treatment to you.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you. We may also disclose your health information to another health care provider or entity that is subject to the federal Privacy Rules for its payment activities.

Public Benefit: We may use or disclose your medical information as authorized by law for the following purposes deemed to be in the public interest or benefit:

- as required by law;
- for public health activities and to employers regarding work-related illness or injury;
- to report abuse, neglect, or domestic violence;
- in response to court and administrative orders and other lawful processes;
- to coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors;

Appointment Reminders: We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters.)

Patient Rights

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may request access by sending a letter to the address at the end of this notice. If you request copies, we will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee that may include labor, copying costs, and postage.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we disclosed your health information over the last 6 years, but not before April 14th, 2003.