



## CENTERPATH WELLNESS

### Notice of Privacy Practices

This notice describes how Centerpath Wellness PLLC, and any associated Licensed Acupuncturist, protects your health information and what rights you have regarding it. We are obligated by law to give you notice of our privacy practices. Please review them carefully.

#### **Right to Notice**

As a patient, you have the right to notice of how Centerpath Wellness PLLC uses and discloses your protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accessibility Act (HIPPA). We may use your protected health information for treatment, payment, and health care operations.

- Treatment – We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other health care provider providing treatment to you.
- Payment – We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services that we provide to you.
- Health care operations – We may use and disclose your health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competency or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities.

**Your Authorization:** Most uses and disclosures that do not fall under treatment, payment, health care operations will require your written authorization. Upon signing, you may revoke your authorization (in writing) through our practice at any time.

**Emergency Situations:** In the event of your incapacity or an emergency situation, we will disclose health information to a family member, or other person responsible for your care, using our professional judgment. We will only disclose health care information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your health care.

**Marketing:** We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your consent.

**Required by Law:** We may also use or disclose your health information when we are required to do so by law.

**Abuse or Neglect:** We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your or other people's health and safety.

**National Security:** We may disclose the health information of Armed Forces personnel to military authorities under certain circumstances. We may disclose health information to authorized federal officials required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence and other national security activities. We may disclose health information of inmates or patients to the appropriate authorities under certain circumstances.

**Appointment Reminders and Follow Up Communication:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with appointment reminders and follow up communication via phone, voicemail, email or letter.

#### **Your Rights as a Patient**

- a) You have the right to restrict the disclosure of your protected health information (in writing). The request for restriction may be denied if the information is required for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

- b) You have the right to receive confidential communications regarding your protected healthcare information.
- a) You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information (PHI). Requests for copies of PHI must be made in writing to our office and will be available for review within 30 days of the date of the request.
- b) You have the right to amend/update your protected health information. To provide the best health care possible, it is always recommended that you keep us up to date on ALL of your health information/conditions.
- c) You have the right to receive an account of disclosures of your protected health information. Our office will provide within 30 days of a written request.
- d) You have the right to a paper copy of this notice of privacy practices upon request.

**Legal Requirements:** We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information. We are required to abide by the terms of this notice as it is currently stated, and reserve the right to change this notice. The policies in any new notice will not be in effect until they are posted within our office.

**Complaints:** It is always our utmost goal to treat our patients with care and respect. If, however, you have complaints regarding the way that your protected health information is handled, you may submit a complaint to our office. We hope that you always let us know what we may do to improve your patient care.

**Contact Information:** For further information about our privacy policies, please contact Centerpath Wellness PLLC at 4552 Page Street Austin, TX 78723.