

Atlanta Gynecology & Obstetrics, PC
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
EFFECTIVE 7/1/2022

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice and may request a copy at any time.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

We may use and disclose your health information for the following purposes without your express consent or authorization.

Treatment: We may use your health information to provide you with medical treatment. We may disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, or other personnel involved in your care. We also may disclose information to persons outside of our organization involved in your treatment, such as other health care providers, healthcare organizations, family members, and friends.

We may use and disclose health information to discuss your treatment options or health-related benefits or services or provide you with promotional gifts of nominal value. We may use and disclose your health information to remind you of upcoming appointments. Unless you direct us otherwise, we may leave messages on your telephone answering machine identifying our organization and asking you to return our call. We will not disclose any health information to any person other than you except to leave a message for you to return the call. We may send test results and other treatment related information to you via our patient portal, the US Postal Service or other carriers as needed to inform you of your care.

Payment: We may use and disclose your health information as necessary to collect payment for services we provide to you. We also may provide information to other health care providers to assist them in obtaining payment for services they provide to you.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your health information for our internal operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary for our day-to-day operations and to make sure patients receive quality care. We may disclose health information about you to another health care provider or health plan with which you also have had a relationship for purposes of that provider's or plan's internal operations.

Business Associates: We provide some services through contracts or arrangements with business associates. We require our business associates to safeguard your information appropriately.

Creation of de-identified health information: We may use your health information to create de-identified health information. This means that all data items that would help identify you are removed or modified.

Uses and disclosures required by law: We will use and disclose your information when required by law to do so.

Disclosures for public health activities: We may disclose your health information to a government agency authorized (a) to collect data for the purpose of preventing or control disease, injury, or disability; or (b) to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. We also may disclose such information to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease if permitted by law.

Disclosures about victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence: We may disclose your health information to a government authority if we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

Disclosures for judicial and administrative proceedings: Your protected health information may be disclosed in response to a court order or response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful processes if certain legal requirements are satisfied.

Disclosures for law enforcement purposes: We may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official as required by law or in compliance with a court order, court-ordered warrant, a subpoena, or summons issued by a judicial officer; a grand jury subpoena; or an administrative request related to a legitimate law enforcement inquiry.

Disclosures regarding victims of a crime: In response to a law enforcement official's request, we may disclose information about you with your approval. We may also disclose information in an emergency or if you are incapacitated if it appears you were the victim of a crime.

Disclosures to avert a serious threat to health or safety: We may disclose information to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public or as necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

Disclosures for specialized government function: We may disclose your protected health information as required to comply with governmental requirements for national security reasons or the protection of certain government personnel or foreign dignitaries.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES

We will obtain your express written authorization before using or disclosing your information for any other purpose not described in this Notice. For example, authorizations are required to use and disclose psychotherapy notes, certain types of marketing arrangements, and certain instances involving the sale of your information. You may revoke such authorization, in writing, at any time to the extent we have not relied on it.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

Right to Inspect and Copy: You have the right to inspect and copy health information maintained by us. To do so, you must complete a specific form providing the necessary information to process your request. We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request, and we may charge a reasonable fee. We may deny you access in certain limited circumstances. If we deny access, you may request a review of that decision by a third party, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right To Request Amendment: If you believe your records contain inaccurate or incomplete information, you may ask us to amend the information. To request an amendment, you must complete a specific form providing information we need to process your request, including the reason that supports your request. Your request may be denied if we did not create the PHI, the amendment is not part of normal record-keeping of PHI, if the amendment would never be included for inspection by any other group or party and if we believe the record is accurate and complete without the amendment. We will, however, respond to your request within 60 days, letting you know if the information has been corrected or if the corrections have been denied and why.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures and Access Report: You have the right to request a list of disclosures of your health information we have made, with certain exceptions defined by law. You also may request

an access report indicating who has accessed your PHI maintained by us in an electronic designated record set in the last three years. To request an accounting, you must complete a specific written form providing the information we need to process your request.

Right to Request Restrictions: You have the right to request a restriction on our uses and disclosures of your health information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. We will agree to the restriction of PHI about you to a health plan if the PHI pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you have paid us in full. You must complete a specific written form providing the information we need to process your request. Our Compliance Team has the authority to approve such a request.

Right to Request Alternative Methods of Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a certain way or at a certain location. You must complete a specific form providing the information needed to process your request. Our Practice Administrator is the only person who has the authority to act on such a request. We will not ask you the reason for your request, and we will accommodate all reasonable requests.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

As required by law, we will maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information. We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this Notice and provide you with a copy. We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information. We will not use or share your information other than described here unless you tell us we may do so in writing.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your rights with respect to health information have been violated, you may file a complaint with our practice or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our practice, please contact our Practice Administrator, Barbara Goldsmith, at (404) 299-9724 or Gwinnett Manager, Amy Mujkic, at (770) 923-5033. To File a complaint with The Department of Health and Human Services, go to: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html>. All complaints must be submitted in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and make the revised Notice effective regarding all protected health information regardless of when the information was created. The new Notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our website.