



## **Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic Notice of Privacy Practices (HIPAA)**

Matt Brown-Ruegg, DC PS | 1409 5<sup>th</sup> Ave | Seattle WA 98101 | 206-624-3590 | [www.hillclimbclinic.com](http://www.hillclimbclinic.com)

Matt Brown-Ruegg, DC PS DBA Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic is required, by law, to maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your protected health information and to provide our patients with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your protected health information.

## **Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.**

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.**

### **Your Rights**

You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record
- Correct your paper or electronic medical record
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

### **Your Choices**

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Tell family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Market our services
- Raise funds

### **Our Uses and Disclosures**

We may use and share your information as we:

- Treat you
- Run our organization
- Bill for your services
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests
- Work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

## Your Rights

**When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights.** This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

### Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

### Ask us to correct your medical record

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

### Request confidential communications

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will say “yes” to all reasonable requests.

### Ask us to limit what we use or share

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our operations. We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.
- If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.

### Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we’ve shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

### Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

### Choose someone to act for you

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

### File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/).
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

## Your Choices

**For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share.** If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- Include your information in a hospital directory

*If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.*

**Marketing** - We may contact you for marketing purposes or fundraising purposes, as described below examples:

- *“As a courtesy to our patients, it is our policy to email, text or call you prior to your scheduled appointment to remind you of your appointment time. No personal health information will be disclosed during this message other than the date and time of your scheduled appointment.”*

- *“As a courtesy to our patients, it is our policy if you missed an appointment we will call your home, work or mobile and leave a message on your answering machine or with the person answering the phone. No personal health information will be disclosed during this recording or message other than the request to call our office to reschedule your appointment.*
- *“It is our practice to occasionally participate in special events to raise awareness, food donations, gifts, money, etc or simply provide you a special service. During these times, we may send you a letter, post card, email or invitation to invite you to participate in the activity. We will provide you with information about the type of activity, the dates and times, and request your participation in such an event. It is not our policy to disclose any personal health information about your condition for these purposes.”*
- *“It is our practice to send newsletters to your mailing or email address on file. These may include special offers, helpful information about health and other topics, and encouraging stories about the success of other patients. It is not our policy to disclose any personal health information about your condition for these purposes unless you expressly consent (on a separate form) to having your story told for the benefit of others.”*

## **Our Uses and Disclosures**

### **How do we typically use or share your health information?**

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

**Treat you** - We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.

*Example: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.*

*“It is our policy to provide a substitute health care provider, authorized by Matt Brown-Ruegg, DC PS DBA Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic, to provide assessment and/or treatment to our patients, without advanced notice, in the event of your primary health care provider’s absence due to vacation, sickness, or other emergency situation.”*

*“It is our practice to use a variety of clinic services including massage and acupuncture and as part of this multiple disciplinary approach information on your overall health condition would be shared with other therapists within the clinic to provide a multiple disciplinary treatment plan for you.”*

**Run our organization** - We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

*Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.*

We may discuss with you your progress or the basics of your condition or the concerns you have that day in an area that is not sound-proof: (example)

*“It is our practice to question and/or encourage you about your progress. We may ask or state how you seem to be moving better, feeling better, etc. At any time you may request that this information be discussed in a room from which low voices could not be heard outside. General health information (i.e. “neck pain, posture, ability to lift without pain, lack of leg pain, fewer allergy symptoms etc.) would frequently be stated.”*

**Bill for your services** - We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

*Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.*

*“As a courtesy to our patients, we will submit an itemized billing statement to your insurance carrier for the purpose of payment to Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic for health care services rendered. If you pay for your health care services personally, we will, as a courtesy, provide an itemized billing to your insurance carrier for the purpose of reimbursement to you. The billing statement contains medical information, including diagnosis, date of injury or condition, and codes which describe the health care services received.”*

*“Some insurance require that some or all of your information regarding your history, examination, treatment, diagnosis, and treatment plan be sent to them in order to release payment, for quality control, or for other qualification purposes.”*

How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see:

[www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

### **Help with public health and safety issues**

We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

- Preventing disease
- Helping with product recalls
- Reporting adverse reactions to medications
- Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
- Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

**Do research**

We can use or share your information for health research.

**Comply with the law**

We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

**Respond to organ and tissue donation requests**

We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.

**Work with a medical examiner or funeral director**

We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

**Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests**

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

**Respond to lawsuits and legal actions**

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

**Change of ownership.** In the event that Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic is sold or merged with another organization, your health information/record will become the property of the new owner.

**Our Responsibilities**

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html).

Changes to the Terms of this Notice

**We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our web site.**

**Other Instructions for Notice**

- December 12, 2013
- Hillclimb Chiropractic Clinic Privacy Official, Matt Brown-Ruegg [info@hillclimbclinic.com](mailto:info@hillclimbclinic.com) and 206-624-3590

This notice is effective as of 12/12/2013