

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES (HIPAA)



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

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 if we feel it may diminish the integrity of the documentation, 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.
- Your health information may be used to send you information about your appointments, treatment, and management.

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Your Rights^{continued}

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 office 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 have the right to receive an accounting of how and to whom your protected health information has been disclosed.

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.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html

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. You can modify your choices at any time in writing.

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

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.

In these cases, we *never* share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes

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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.	<i>Example: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.</i>
Run our organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.	<i>Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.</i>
Bill for your services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.	<i>Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.</i>

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/hipaa/index.html

Help with public health and safety issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preventing disease and research• 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
Comply with the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Work with a medical examiner or funeral director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can use or share health information about you:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We can share health information about you in response to a court or legal action administrative order or in response to a subpoena.

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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.
- As permitted by law, we reserve the right to amend or modify our privacy policies and practices. These changes in our policies and practices may be required by changes in federal and state laws and regulations. Upon request, we provide you with the most recently revised notice on any office visit. The revised policies and practices will be applied to all protected health information we maintain.

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html

This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the following organization:

**Martinsburg Eye Associates
2002 Professional Ct
Martinsburg, WV 25401
Phone: 304-267-4273**