

PRIVACY POLICY NOTICE

For Dr. Chivari and Dr. Hasten's Dental Office

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.

USES AND DISCLOSURES

Treatment—Our office will use and disclose your protected health information (PHI) for purposes of treatment, meaning the provision, coordination and management of your health care and related services. For instance, we will use and disclose your health information to coordinate benefits with a third-party payer, with our dental labs, or for consultation between our office and a specialist if required for your care.

Payment—Our office will use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to obtain payment for services rendered. For example, our office may share your treatment plan with your insurer to determine the coverage allowed by your benefits plan.

Public health activities—Our office may use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to appropriate public health authorities for reasons such as, but not limited to, preventing or controlling disease, injury or child abuse and neglect.

Judicial and administrative proceedings—Our office may use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding if required by law to do so.

Law enforcement agencies—Our office may use or disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to a law enforcement agency if required by law to do so.

Deceased patients—Our office may use or disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to a coroner or medical examiner for the purpose of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death or another matter authorized by law, or to funeral directors to carry out their duties with respect to the deceased individual.

Specialized government functions—If you are a member of the Armed Forces, our office will use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI for military and veterans activities. Our office also will use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to a correctional institution or law enforcement agency if you are an inmate and that agency or institution indicates the information is necessary.

Workers' compensation proceedings—Our office may use or disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws related to workers' compensation or similar programs.

Friend, family and personal representatives—Our office will use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI that is directly relevant to the involvement of a family member, other relative, a close personal friend or someone else identified by you. Involvement could be in relation to care or payment for services. Our office also will use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI regarding your location, general condition or death to a family member, a personal representative of yours or another person responsible for the your care. Such uses and disclosures will be made only with your permission if you are present, unless you are incapacitated or there is an emergency circumstance where our office must exercise professional judgment.

Federal investigation—Our office may use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI for an investigation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to determine if our office is in compliance with the HIPAA privacy regulation that requires us to protect your individually identifiable health information.

Business associates—Our office may disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI to a business associate or allow the business associate to create or receive your PHI on our behalf only if the business associate has agreed in writing to appropriately safeguard the information.

Appointment reminders—Our office may use and disclose the minimum necessary amount of your PHI when contacting you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

General authorization statement—For any other purposes not stated in this notice, our office will not use or disclose your PHI without your prior written authorization.

PATIENT'S RIGHTS

The patient—You have the right to inspect or obtain a copy of your PHI from our office. Our office requires you to submit such requests in writing to our privacy director. Our office must act on your request no later than 30 days after receipt of your request. If further delays are required, our office may extend the time needed to respond to your request an additional 30 days provided that our office informs you in writing of the reasons for the delay and offers a date by which our office will respond to your request. Our office will provide you with access to your PHI to inspect or to obtain a copy, or both, in the form requested, if reasonable. Our office will charge you a cost-based fee for the provision of any copies provided to you.

Denial of access appeals—If our office denies your request for access to your PHI in whole or in part, we must

inform you in writing of this denial within 30 days of the original request, and the statement must provide the basis for the denial. Reasons for denial may include the following circumstances: the information requested makes reference to another person (unless the other person is a health-care provider) and the doctor has determined, using his professional judgment, that granting your request is reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to this other person; or when the request for information is made by your personal representative and the doctor, using his professional judgment, has decided that the provision of the information to the personal representative is reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to you or another person. If access to your PHI is denied for these reasons, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by Devon, who has agreed to serve in this capacity for our office. Our office will inform you in writing as to the decision by Dr. Chivari or Dr. Hasten within a reasonable period of time.

Restrictions—You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your PHI, though our office is not required to grant such requests.

Confidential communications—You have the right to request, and our office must accommodate, reasonable requests to receive confidential communications of PHI from our office by alternative means or at alternative locations.

Accounting of disclosures—You have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your PHI made by our office for the six years prior to the date on which the accounting is requested. The following disclosures are exempted from this accounting: Disclosures to carry out treatment, payment and health-care operations; to you, the patient; for incidental uses or disclosures; disclosures made according to your written authorization; for the office patient directory; for national security; for correctional institutions; for a limited data set; or any disclosure that occurred prior to April 14, 2003. Our office will provide you with a written accounting that includes the disclosures required to be listed, such as those to business associates of our office. This accounting will include the date of disclosure, the name of the entity or person who received the PHI.

Electronic notice—You have the right to receive a paper form of this notice of privacy policies from our office upon request if this notice was received electronically.

Right to amend—You have the right to request our office amend your PHI. Our office, however, may deny such a request if we determine that the PHI was not created by our office, is not part of the designated record set, the information is not available for access to you, or the current information is accurate and complete. Amendment requests must be made in writing to our privacy director. Our office must act on such requests within 60 days of receipt of such requests. If we deny your request, we will inform you in writing within 60 days, indicating one of the reasons listed previously as the basis for the denial. If you do not submit a statement of disagreement, you may request that our office provide your request for amendment and the denial with any future disclosures of your PHI that is the subject of the amendment. If you submit a statement of disagreement (limited to 500 words), our office may prepare a written rebuttal to your statement. We will provide you with a copy of the rebuttal.

DENTAL OFFICE DUTIES

Our office is required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI and to provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. Our office is required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. Our office reserves the right to change the terms of this notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all PHI that we maintain.

COMPLAINTS

Patients may file a complaint with our office and with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary if they believe their privacy rights have been violated. Complaints must be filed within 180 days of when you knew or should have known that the alleged violation occurred. To do so, please request a complaint form from our privacy director. Please be assured, patients who file complaints will not be retaliated against for doing so.

CONTACT

For more information about our office’s privacy policies, contact:
Privacy Director: Devan
Telephone: 981-3047

EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice for our practice is effective as of: April 13, 2003

I have received and reviewed the office Privacy Policy Notice for Dr. Chivari and Dr. Hasten’s Dental Office.

Patient’s signature: _____ Date: _____

In case you do not agree to sign this form, our office must indicate why you declined to do so.

Reason for patient’s refusal:

Privacy Director’s signature: _____ Date: _____