

Notice of Privacy Practices

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. Effective Date: May 18, 2023

If you have any questions about this notice or have privacy questions, complaints, or concerns, you can contact EmergeOrtho's Privacy Officer by telephone, email, or U.S. Mail using the contact information below: EmergeOrtho Privacy Officer 120 William Penn Plaza Durham, NC 27704 919.313.1266 | Privacy@emergeortho.com

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.

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- 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 877.696.6775, or visiting [hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/).
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

Additional rights under other laws.

North Carolina laws may provide you with more protection for specific types of information than federal laws protecting the privacy of your health information. Where applicable, we will follow the requirements of North Carolina law that generally requires that we obtain your written consent before we may disclose health information related to your mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse services. There are some exceptions to this requirement.

YOUR CHOICES

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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.
- We do not create or manage 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.

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.

In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

OUR USES & DISCLOSURE

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.

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.

Bill for your services.

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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.

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: [hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](https://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.

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- 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.

Give to correctional institutions having lawful custody of you.

We can share health information about you if you are an inmate as necessary for your health and the safety of others.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information, sometimes referred to as PHI.
- 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:

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

Changes to this Notice:

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

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Durham Internal Medicine may share information we obtain or create about you through our participation with the North Carolina Health Information Exchange (NCHIE) as permitted by law.

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For example, information about your past medical care and current medical conditions and medications can be available to us or to your primary care physician or hospital, if they participate in the NCHIE as well. Exchange of health information can provide faster access, better coordination of care and assist providers and public health officials in making more informed decisions.

We may share information about you through NCHIE for treatment, payment, healthcare operations, or research purposes. **You may opt out of NCHIE and disable access to your health information by completing and submitting an Opt-Out form to NCHIE by mail, or through their website at hiea.nc.gov/patients/your-choices.**

Please note that your hospital or health care provider may also participate in other HIEs, including HIEs that allow your provider to share your information directly through our electronic medical record system. You may choose to opt-out of these other HIEs by contacting our Privacy Officer at **919.313.1266** during regular business hours.



Durham Internal
Medicine Associates

A service line of EmergeOrtho

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