

Katrina Vlachos, M.D.
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Musculoskeletal Medicine

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

At Katrina Vlachos, MD, Inc., we understand that medical information about you and your health is personal, and we are committed to protecting that information. This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we and the medical staff and personnel who provide you with care or services at this facility may use and disclose your Protected Health Information ("PHI") to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your PHI, which is information about you, including demographic information that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related healthcare services. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI, to provide notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI, to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured PI-11, and to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices.

We may change the terms of our notice at any time. The new notice will be effective for all PHI that we maintain at that time. Upon your request, you can receive any revised Notice of Privacy Practices by accessing our website www.katrinavlachosmd.com, contacting the facility where you received services, or by contacting the Privacy Officer: 310-850-2347.

Uses and Disclosures

Treatment. Your health information may be used by staff members or disclosed to other healthcare professionals for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing medical conditions, and providing treatment. For example, results of laboratory tests and procedures will be available in your medical records to all health professionals who may provide treatment or who may be consulted by staff members.

Payment. Your health information may be used to seek payment from your health plan, from other sources of coverage such as an automobile insurer, or from credit card companies that you may use to pay for services. For example, your health plan may request to receive information on dates of service, the services provided, and the medical condition being treated.

Healthcare Operations. Your health information may be used as necessary to support the day-to-day activities and management of Katrina Vlachos, MD, Inc. For example, information on the services you received may be used to support quality assessment activities, employee review, training of medical students, and conducting or arranging for other healthcare activities, such learning how to improve our facilities or determining how to improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care we provide.

In addition, we may use a sign in sheet at the registration desk where you may be asked to sign your name. We may also call your name in the waiting room when your health care provider is ready to see you. Also, we may share your PHI with third party business associates that may perform billing,

transcription, etc services. In any such event, we will require that the business associate to properly safeguard your PHI.

Law enforcement. Your health information may be disclosed to law enforcement agencies, without your permission, to support government audits and inspections, to facilitate law-enforcement investigations, and to comply with government mandated reporting.

Public health reporting. Your health information may be disclosed to public health agencies as required by law. For example, we are required to report certain communicable diseases, injury and disability, child abuse and neglect, and domestic violence to the state's public health department. In addition, reporting problems with products or reactions to medications to the Food and Drug Administration and reporting disease or infection exposure.

Other uses and disclosures require your authorization. Disclosure of your health information or its use for any purpose other than those listed above requires your specific written authorization. If you change your mind after authorizing a use or disclosure of your information, you may submit a WRITTEN revocation of the authorization. However, your decision to revoke the authorization will not affect or undo any use or disclosure of information that occurred before you notified us in writing of your decision.

Additional Uses of Information

Appointment reminders. Your health information will be used by our staff to send you (or call you with) appointment reminders. Your general information may also be used to send you a birthday card, sympathy card when applicable, thank you cards, or other acknowledgements.

Information about treatments. Your health information may be used to send you, or to call you with, information on the treatment and management of your medical condition that you may find to be of interest. We may also send you (or call you with) information describing other health-related goods and service that we believe may interest you.

Worker's Compensation. Your health information may be disclosed as necessary to comply with State Worker's Compensation Laws.

Emergencies. Your health information may be disclosed to notify or assist in notifying a family member, or another person responsible for your care about your medical condition or in the event of an emergency or of your death.

Deceased Persons. Your health information may be disclosed to coroners or medical examiners.

Organ Donation. Your health information may be disclosed to organizations involved in procuring, banking, or transplanting organs and tissues.

Specialized Government Agencies. Your health information may be disclosed for military, national security, prisoner, and government benefit purposes.

Legal proceedings We may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose PHI in response to a subpoena, discovery, request or other lawful processes, but only if a reasonable effort has been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order to protect the information requested.

We may use or disclose your PHI to the extent required by law. This use or disclosure will be made in compliance with the law and will be limited to the relevant requirements of the law. You will be notified, as required by law, of any such uses or disclosures.

Health Oversight. You PHI may be disclosed to a health oversight agency for activities required by law, such as audits, investigations, and inspections. These include government agencies that oversee the healthcare system, government benefit programs, other government regulatory programs, and civil rights laws.

Individual Rights

You have certain rights under the federal privacy standards. These include:

- The right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your protected health information
- The right to access your PHI
- The right to inspect and copy your protected health information
- The right to amend or submit corrections to your protected health information
- The right to receive an accounting of how and to whom your protected health information has been disclosed
- The right to receive a printed copy of this Notice

Katrina Vlachos, MD, Inc. Duties

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information and to provide you with this Notice of Privacy Practices.

We also are required to abide by the privacy policies and practices that are outlined in this Notice.

Right to Revise Privacy Practices

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. Whatever the reason for these revisions, we will provide you with a revised Notice on your next office visit. The revised policies and practices will be applied to all protected health information that we maintain.

Requests to Inspect Protected Health Information

As permitted by federal regulation, we require that requests to inspect or copy protected health information be submitted in WRITING. You may obtain a form to request access to your records by contacting our **Medical Records Coordinator at 13160 Mindanao Way #300 Marina del Rey, CA 90292**

Complaints

If you would like to submit a comment or complaint about our privacy practices, you can do so by **SENDING A LETTER** outlining your concerns to: **Medical Records Coordinator at 13160 Mindanao Way #300 Marina del Rey, CA 90292**

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you should call the matter to our attention by SENDING A LETTER describing the cause of your concern to the same address.

You will not be penalized or otherwise retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Contact Person

The name and address of the person you can contact for further information concerning our privacy practices is:

Katrina Vlachos, MD
13160 Mindanao Way #300
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
310-850-2347

Effective Date

This Notice is effective on or after **November 1, 2016**.