

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Gastro-Surgi Center of NJ

1132 Spruce Drive, Mountainside, NJ 07092

Phone: (908) 317-0071

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.

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.

1. Ask for an electronic/paper copy of your health record:

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your health record and other health information we have about you.
- 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.

2. Ask us to correct your health record:

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect/incomplete.
- We may say "no" to your request, but we'll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

3. 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.

4. 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 say "no" if it would affect your care.
- If you pay for a service/healthcare 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.

5. 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 healthcare operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We'll provide one accounting per year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

6. 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 with a paper copy promptly.

7. 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.

8. 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 at the end of this document.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Office for Civil rights by visiting: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/, sending a letter to: 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, or calling 1-877-696-6775.
- 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.

1. In the situations below, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- a) Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in your care.
- b) Share information in a disaster relief situation.
- c) 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.

2. In the following situations, we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

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

3. In the case of fundraising:

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

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Our Uses and Disclosures

How do we typically use or share your health information?

We use or share your health information in the following ways:

1. Treat you

- We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you. *Ex: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.*

2. Run our organization

- We can use/share your information to run other practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary. *Ex: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.*

3. Bill for your services

- We use/share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities. *Ex: 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.

1. 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.

2. Do research

We can use/share information for health research

3. Comply with the law

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

4. Respond to organ/tissue donation requests

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

5. Work with medical examiner or funeral director

We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when individuals die.

6. 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/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.

7. Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

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

State-Specific Disclosure Restrictions

New Jersey Privacy and Confidentiality Law

Except as required by law, we will not share any HIV-related or sexually-transmitted disease information and mental health or substance abuse treatment records without your written permission.

Our Responsibilities

1. We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
2. We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
3. We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
4. 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 that we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change 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 website.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, contact our Practice Privacy Officer at:

Telephone: (908) 317-9434

E-mail: privacy@gastrosurgicenter.com

For more information, see:

www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html