

River Valley Dental of Mankato, PLLC

124 Walnut Street | Mankato MN, 56001 | (507) 388-3384

HIPAA 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.

We respect our legal obligation to keep health information that identifies you private. We are obligated by law to give you notice of our privacy practices. This notice describes how we protect your health information and what rights you have regarding it.

Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

The most common reason why we use or disclose your health information is for treatment, payment or health care operations. Examples of how we use or disclose information for treatment purposes are: setting up an appointment for you; examining your teeth; prescribing medications and faxing them to be filled; referring you to another doctor or clinic for other health care or services; or getting copies of your health information from another professional that you may have seen before us. Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for payment purposes are: asking you about your health or dental care plans, or other sources of payment; preparing and sending bills or claims; and collecting unpaid amounts (either ourselves or through a collection agency or attorney). "Health care operations" mean those administrative and managerial functions that we have to do in order to run our office. Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for health care operations are: financial or billing audits; internal quality assurance; personnel decisions; participation in managed care plans; defense of legal matters; business planning; and outside storage of our records.

We routinely use your health information inside our office for these purposes without any special permission. If we need to disclose your health information outside of our office for these reasons, we usually will not ask you for special written permission.

Our Use and Disclosure of Your Health Information Without Your Written Authorization

Common Reasons for Our Use and Disclosure of Patient Health Information

Appointment Reminders. We may call or write to remind you of scheduled appointments, or that it is time to make a routine appointment. We may also call or write to notify you of other treatments or services available at our office that might help you. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will mail you an appointment reminder on a post card, and/or leave you a reminder message on your home answering machine or with someone who answers your phone if you are not home.

If you choose to "opt-in" to our online patient communication system you may receive these notices, in addition to the previous mentioned notices, via Email and/or text message.

Treatment Alternatives and Health-Related Benefits and Services. We may use and disclose your health information to tell you about treatment options or alternatives, or health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Disclosure to Family Members and Friends. We may disclose your health information to a family member or friend who is involved with your care or payment for your care if you do not object or, if you are not present, we believe it is in your best interest to do so.

Less Common Reasons for Use and Disclosure of Patient Health Information

The following uses and disclosures occur infrequently and may never apply to you.

Disclosures Required by Law. We may use or disclose patient health information to the extent we are required by law to do so. For example, we are required to disclose patient health information to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services so that it can investigate complaints or determine our compliance with HIPAA.

Public Health Activities. We may disclose patient health information for public health activities and purposes, which include: preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting births or deaths; reporting child abuse or neglect; reporting adverse reactions to medications or foods; reporting product defects; enabling product recalls; and notifying a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence. We may disclose health information to the appropriate government authority about a patient whom we believe is a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose patient health information to a health oversight agency for activities necessary for the government to provide appropriate oversight of the health care system, certain government benefit programs, and compliance with certain civil rights laws.

Lawsuits and Legal Actions. We may disclose patient health information in response to (i) a court or administrative order or (ii) a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process that is not ordered by a court if efforts have been made to notify the patient or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement Purposes. We may disclose patient health information to a law enforcement official for law enforcement purposes, such as to identify or locate a suspect, material witness or missing person; or to alert law enforcement of a crime.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors. We may disclose patient health information to a coroner, medical examiner or funeral director to allow them to carry out their duties.

Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation. We may use or disclose patient health information to organ procurement organizations or others that obtain, bank or transplant cadaveric organs, eyes or tissue for donation and transplant.

Research Purposes. We may use or disclose patient health information for research purposes pursuant to patient authorization waiver approval by an Institutional Review Board or Privacy Board.

Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use or disclose patient health information if we believe it is necessary to do so to prevent or lessen a serious threat to anyone's health or safety.

Specialized Government Functions. We may disclose patient health information to the military (domestic or foreign) about its members or veterans, for national security and protective services for the President or other heads of state, to the government for security clearance reviews, and to a jail or prison about its inmates.

Workers' Compensation. We may disclose patient health information to comply with workers' compensation laws or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Forwarding of Records. We may forward your records to contain any of the following information: dates of last services rendered, current radiographs, and any outstanding treatment plans, with your verbal or written consent to another dental practice.

Your Written Authorization for Any Other Use or Disclosure of Your Health Information

We will make other uses and disclosures of health information not discussed in this notice only with your written authorization. You may revoke that authorization at any time in writing. Upon receipt of the written revocation, we will stop using or disclosing your health information for the reasons covered by the authorization going forward.

Our Notice of Privacy Practices

By law, we must abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices until we choose to change it. We reserve the right to change this notice at any time as allowed by law. If we change this notice, the new privacy practices will apply to your health information that we already have as well as to such information that we may generate in the future. If we change our Notice of Privacy Practices, we will post the new notice in our office, have copies available in our office, and post it on our Website.

Complaints

If you think that we have not properly respected the privacy of your health information, you are free to complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you if you make a complaint. If you want to complain to us, send a written complaint to the office contact person at the address, fax or E mail shown at the end of this Notice. If you prefer, you can discuss your complaint in person or by phone.

To Contact Us

If you want more information about our privacy practices, call or visit the office contact person at the address or phone number shown below:

River Valley Dental
124 E. Walnut Street, Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001
(507)388-3384
rvd@hickorytech.net

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HIPAA Authorization Form & Release

I HAVE READ AND RECEIVED A COPY OF THE HIPAA PRIVACY NOTICE. I AM SIGNING THIS FORM VOLUNTARILY. I AUTHORIZE THE DISCLOSURE OF MY HEALTH INFORMATION AS DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE.

RIGHTS OF THE PATIENT:

I understand that I have the right to revoke this authorization at any time and that I have the right to inspect or copy the protected health information to be disclosed as described in this document by sending a written notification to **RIVER VALLEY DENTAL**. I understand that a revocation is not effective in cases where the information has already been disclosed but will be effective going forward.

I understand that information used or disclosed as a result of this authorization may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by federal or state law.

I understand that I have the right to refuse to sign this authorization and that my treatment will not be conditioned on signing this authorization.

This authorization shall be enforced and in effect until revoked by the patient or representative signing the authorization.

Name of Patient (please print): _____

_____ Date _____

Signature of Patient/Parent/Legal Guardian/Personal Representative

River Valley Dental is authorized to release protected health information about the above named patient to the following listed entities:

ENTITY NAME _____ **RELATIONSHIP** _____

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ENTITY NAME _____ **RELATIONSHIP** _____

Please initial each situation giving **RIVER VALLEY DENTAL** your authorization to supply information to your entity:

_____ Release financial information _____ Discuss Dental Treatment Plan

_____ Other information as described: _____