

## Notice of Privacy Practices

This Notice explains how our office may use and disclose your protected health information and your rights regarding how we protect your health information. "Protected health information," including demographics, can be reasonably used to identify you, relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health condition, the provision of care to you, or the payment for that care. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and our privacy policy at any time. Any changes will apply to all protected health information that we maintain effective the date of a new Notice. New Notices will be posted at Elixia Wellness Group and you may obtain one at any time. This Notice goes into effect April 14, 2003.

### ***Uses and Disclosures***

We may use and disclose your health information for different reasons.

- **Treatment:** To assist in your diagnosis and treatment.
- **Payment:** In order to bill and collect payment for services provided. For example, to claims processing companies, others that participate in the claims payment process and your health insurance plan to get reimbursed for services.
- **Health Care Operations:** For activities necessary such as quality management, utilization review, anti-fraud and claims payment, provider credentialing activities, and as required by industry or government regulators such as state licensing boards, insurance regulatory agencies, and the sponsor of your health plan.

Our office may not use or disclose any more of your protected health information than is necessary to accomplish the purpose of the use or disclosure, except for treatment purposes.

We must disclose, when required by law, for the following examples:

- **Avoid threat to health or safety.** To law enforcement personnel or persons able to prevent or lessen a serious threat to public safety.
- **Coroners, Funeral Directors, Organ Donation.** To said professionals such that they can carry out their duties.
- **Health oversight activities.** To assist the government agencies, such as when it conducts an investigation or inspection of a health care organization.
- **Health-related benefits or services.** For appointment reminders or to give you information about treatment alternatives or services that may be of interest to you.
- **Law Enforcement, judicial and administrative proceedings.** In response to a subpoena, discovery request, in response to a warrant, to identify or locate a suspect, to provide information about a victim of a crime, or other lawful process.
- **National security and intelligence.** As required by military officials for security and military purposes.
- **Public health activities.** To public health agencies for reasons such as preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability.
- **Research.** For medical research – Such circumstances include taking steps to protect your privacy.
- **Victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.** To government agencies and law enforcement personnel as required by law.
- **Workers' compensation.** In compliance with workers' compensation laws.

### ***Authorization***

Any uses or disclosures other than those described above will be made **only** with your prior written authorization, unless otherwise permitted or required by law. In the event that you authorize us to use your protected health information for other uses, you have the right to revoke any authorization by delivering a written revocation statement, except to the extent that we have already disclosed the information or are allowed by law to use the information to contest a claim or coverage.

***Patient Rights***

**Right to request restrictions on uses and disclosures:** To request a restriction, please write a request to Elixia Wellness Group. Upon receiving your request, we will put the limits and terms in writing and abide by them except in emergency situations. You may not limit the uses and disclosures that we are legally required to make.

**Right to receive confidential communications:** This includes the right to direct where communications are sent. For example, you may request that information be sent to our work address rather than your home address or via Email than by regular mail. To verify or modify where or how you would like communication sent, contact the Elixia Wellness Group. Unless requested otherwise, we will direct mailings and telephone messages to the address/telephone number we have on record.

**Right to inspect and copy.** Includes the rights to see and get copies of your information that we maintain. Submit your request in writing to Elixia Wellness Group and we will respond to you within 30 days of receipt of your written request. We will charge you a reasonable copying fee for each page and mailing costs but will inform you of that fee in advance.

**Right to amend:** If you believe there is a mistake or missing information, you have the right to request that we correct or add to your file. You must provide the request in writing to Elixia Wellness Group. We will respond within 60 days of receipt of your written request. We may deny your request in writing if your information is 1) correct and complete, 2) not created by us, 3) not allowed to be disclosed, or 4) not part of our records. Upon approval, we will make the changes, inform you when the changes are complete, and inform others that need to know about the change in a timely manner. Our written denial will state the reason for the denial and explain your right to file a written statement of disagreement with the denial. You also have the right to request that copies of your initial request and our denial be attached to all future disclosures of your information.

**Right to receive an accounting of disclosures.** This will not include uses or disclosures made for treatment, payment or health care operations, disclosures made directly to you, those you have already authorized, those made for national security reasons or to law enforcement that has lawful custody over you. We will respond within 60 days of receiving written request. Please include the time period for which you want the accounting (can be no longer than 6 years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003). The accounting will include the date of the disclosure, to whom information was sent, a brief description of the information disclosed, and a brief statement of the purpose for the disclosure. We will provide the first accounting at no charge. For additional accountings, we may charge you a fee but will inform you of that fee in advance.

**Right to get a paper copy of this Notice.** At any time even if you previously agreed to receive an electronic copy.

**Right to file a complaint.** If you believe your health information has been improperly used or disclosed, or that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a privacy complaint with us. Contact Elixia Wellness Group. You also have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. We will take no retaliatory action against you if you file a complaint with us or the DHHS.

Note: if this acknowledgement is being signed by a legal representative, you must provide a copy of the power of attorney or other relevant document(s) designating you as the legal representative.