

# COMPREHENSIVE PODIATRIC MEDICAL SERVICES, LTD.

## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

***THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION MAY BE UTILIZED AND DISCLOSED  
AND YOUR ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.***

***PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.***

***THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.***

### **Our legal duty:**

We are required by applicable federal and state laws to maintain the privacy of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This Notice takes effect March 1, 2003 and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time; provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

### **Uses and disclosure of health information:**

**Treatment:** We may use or disclose your health information to a physician or other health care provider providing treatment to you.

**Payment:** We use and disclose health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example: We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment for services we provide to you.

**Healthcare operations:** We may use and disclose your healthcare information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence for qualifications of healthcare professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities.

**Your authorization:** In addition to our use of your health information for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations, you may give us written authorization to use your healthcare information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it is in effect. Unless you give us written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your healthcare information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

**To your family and friends:** We must disclose your healthcare information to you, as described in the patient rights section of this notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend, or other person to the extent necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment for your healthcare, but only if you agree that we may do so.

**Persons involved and care:** We may use or disclose healthcare information to notify, assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care, your location, your general condition, or death. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your healthcare information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on the determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your healthcare. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences of your best interest in allowing a person to pick up fill prescriptions, medical supplies, radiographs, or other similar forms of health information.

**Marketing and health-related services:** We will not use your health information for marketing communications without your written authorization.

**Abuse or neglect:** We may disclose your health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

**National security:** We may disclose to military authorities the health information of armed forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials, the health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement officials having lawful custody of protected health information of inmates or patients under certain circumstances.

**Appointment reminders and clinical information notices:** We may use or disclose your health information to provide you with an appointment reminder (such as voicemail messages, postcards, or letters) or to provide you with information regarding this clinic.

### **Patient rights:**

**Access:** You will have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited expectations. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information at the end of this notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this notice. If you request copies, we will charge you \$20 and \$20 per hour after the first hour for staff time to locate and copy your health information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternate format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice for a full explanation of your health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

**Disclosure accounting:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclose your health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations, and certain other activities, for the last six years but not before April 14, 2003. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12 month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

**Restriction:** You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in the case of an emergency).

**Alternative communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. You must make this request in writing. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

**Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your health information. Your request must be in writing and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

**Electronic Notice:** If you receive this notice by electronic mail (e-mail) or on a website, you are entitled to receive this Notice in written form.

### **Questions or complaints:**

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with the decision we made about access to your health information, or to have us communicate with your alternative means or at alternative locations, you may contact us with your concerns using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaints with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon your request.

We support and respect the right to the privacy of your healthcare information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact officer: Dr. Theodore Polizos  
Comprehensive Podiatric Medical Services, Ltd.  
2740 W. Foster  
Suite #205  
Chicago, IL 60625  
Tel: 773-271-9050  
Fax: 773-271-9051