

Privacy Practices

What is HIPAA?

Information held by a covered entity, such as Orthopaedics Plus.

Assurance

Your privacy is very important to OP. We do not allow access to your health information by those outside the Orthopaedics Plus providers unless we have the appropriate authorization to do so. We're also committed to safeguarding your personal information online.

Our workforce members are trained in the appropriate use and disclosure of health information and know that it is available to continue to provide care to you and for other legitimate purposes. We address any violation of confidentiality or failure of a workforce member to protect your information from accidental or unauthorized access.

HIPAA Notice of Patient Privacy Practices and your rights under HIPAA

In compliance with Federal Law, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Orthopaedics Plus is informing you of your privacy rights. Please review the information below.

How will Orthopaedics Plus Use and Disclose PHI under HIPAA?

HIPAA allows us to use and disclose your PHI for the purposes of Treatment, Payment, and Healthcare Operations without authorization. We will specifically use and disclose your PHI to communicate with your physician and to, upon request, assist your insurance company with the processing of your claims. Additionally, we will use your basic demographic information to notify you of new services or facilities. Listed are other instances in which use and disclosure of your PHI is allowed without your authorization.

- Disclosure to those Involved in the Individual's Care when necessary, we will make a professional decision to disclose PHI to family members, close friends, or other persons involved in and assisting in your care when you approve or when are not able or present to approve.
- Uses and Disclosures Required by Law- As required by law, we are required to use and disclose PHI for the following reasons:
- Use and Disclose PHI for Public Health Activities - Examples include: communicable diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, lead poisoning, Reyes Syndrome, etc., to public health officials.
- Disclose PHI about Victims of Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence - Examples include: child abuse and neglect; an abused or neglected nursing home resident; a patient over 60 years old involved in elder abuse.
- Uses and Disclosure of Health Oversight Activities - We may use and release PHI to be used for audits, investigations, and licensure issues, etc.
- Disclosure for Judicial and Administrative Proceedings - We may disclose limited PHI to the appropriate authorities as a result of a court order subpoena, discovery request, etc.
- Disclosure for Law Enforcement Purposes - We may disclose reasonably necessary PHI to law enforcement officials to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person.
- Uses and Disclosures Related to Decedents - We may use and disclose PHI to a coroner or medical examiner and funeral directors as required by law.
- Uses and Disclosures Related to Cadaveric Organ, Eye or Tissue Donations - We may use and release PHI in order to facilitate organ, eye or tissue donations.
- Uses and Disclosures to Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety - We may use and release PHI to public health and other authorities required by law in order to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety.
- Uses and Disclosures for Specialized Government Functions - We may use and release PHI for military/veterans activities and national security/intelligence activities.
- Use and Disclosure of PHI in Emergency Situations - In the event of an eminent threat to the safety of a patient, we may disclose PHI to prevent or lessen the threat.

Uses and Disclosures requiring the Patients Authorization - We must obtain your written authorization if we are interested in using and or disclosing your PHI for reasons other than treatment, payment and health care operations, or situations listed above. You may revoke your authorization at any time.

Where can I file a privacy complaint?

If you feel your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint in writing with Orthopaedics Plus's Compliance and Privacy Officer, Linda Schnare, at our Bedford office, 54 Middlesex Turnpike, Suite 101L, Bedford, MA 01730.

You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. in writing within 180 days of a violation of your rights. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.