

PISMO BEACH OPTOMETRIC CENTER NOTICE OF PRIVACY

This notice describes how your health information may be used and disclosed and how you can access this information. Please review it carefully. At Pismo Beach Optometric Center, we have always kept your health information secure and confidential. A new law requires us to continue maintaining your privacy, to give you this notice to follow the terms of this notice. The law permits us to use or disclose your health information to those involved in your treatment. For example, a review of your file by a specialist doctor whom we may involve in your care. We may use or disclose your health information for normal healthcare operations. For example, one of our staff will enter your information into our computer. We may share your medical information with our business associates, such as a billing service. We have a written contract with each business associate that requires them to protect your privacy. We may use your information to contact you. For example, we may send you newsletter or other information. We may also call and remind you about your appointments. If you are not at home, we may leave this information on your answering machine or with the person who answers the telephone. In an emergency, we may disclose your health information to a family member or another person responsible for your care. We may release some or all your information when required by law.

If this practice is sold, your information will become property of the new owner. Except as described above, this practice will not use or disclose your health information without prior written authorization.

You may request in writing that we not use or disclose your health information as described above. We will let you know if we can fulfill your request, you have the right to know of any uses or disclosures, we make with your health information beyond the above normal uses. As we will need to contact you from time to time, we will use whatever address or telephone number you prefer. You have the right to transfer copies of your health information to another practice. We will mail your files for you.

You have the right to see and receive a copy of your health information, with a few exceptions. Give us written request regarding the information you want to see. If you also want a copy of your records, we may charge you a reasonable fee for the copies. You have the right to request an amendment or change to your health information. Give us the request to make changes in writing. If you wish to include a statement in your file. If we agree to an amendment or change, we will not remove nor alter earlier documents, but will add new information. You have the right to receive a copy of this notice.

If we change any of the details in this notice, we will notify you of the changes in writing.

You may file a complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services, 1444 S Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93454. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint. This notice goes into effect as of April 14, 2003. Upon request, a copy of this notice will be given.

I have read and understand the Pismo Beach Optometric Center Notice of Privacy Practices.

Date: _____

Signed: _____ Print Name: _____

If signed as a parent/guardian, please note the name of the patient: _____