

# LINCOLN CENTER OB/GYN, PA – 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.

## WHY ARE WE PROVIDING THIS NOTICE

Lincoln Center OB/GYN, PA compiles information relating to you and the treatment and services you receive. This information is called protected health information (PHI) and is maintained in a designated record set. We may use and disclose this information in various ways. Sometimes your agreement or authorization is necessary for us to use or disclose your information and sometimes it is not. This Notice describes how we use and disclose your protected health information and your rights. We are required by law to give you this Notice, and we are required to follow it. We may change this Notice at any time if the law changes or when our policies change. If we change the Notice, you will be given a revised Notice. You may also access this Notice on our website: [www.lincolncenterobgyn.com](http://www.lincolncenterobgyn.com).

## HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

**For Treatment:** We may use and disclose your protected health information to give you medical treatment or services and to manage and coordinate your medical care. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician or other health care provider (e.g., a specialist or laboratory) to whom you have been referred to ensure that the physician or other health care provider has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you or provide you with a service.

**For Payment:** We may use or disclose your protected health information so that we can bill for the treatment or services you receive from us and can collect payment from you, a health plan, or a third party. This may include disclosing information so that your health insurance plan may approve or pay for health care services we recommend for you, (e.g. making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, reviewing services provided to you for medical necessity, and undertaking utilization review activities).

**For Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your protected health information when it is necessary for us to function as a business. For example, when we contract with other businesses to do specific tasks for us, we may share your protected health information related to those tasks. When we do this, the business agrees in the contract to protect your health information and use and disclose such health information only to the extent Lincoln Center OB/GYN, PA would be able to do so. These businesses are called Business Associates. Another example is if we want to see how well our staff is doing, we may use your protected health information to review their performance.

**Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives, Health-Related Benefits and Services:** We may use and disclose protected health information to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment for medical care, or to contact you to tell you about possible treatment options or alternatives or health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

**Research:** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose your protected health information for medical research. All research projects however, are subject to a special approval process. Before we use or disclose your health information for research, the project will have been approved.

**As Required by Law:** We will disclose your protected health information when the law requires us to do so.

**To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose your protected health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another person.

**Organ and Tissue Donation:** If you are an organ or tissue donor, we may use or disclose your protected health information to an organ

donation bank or other organizations that handle organ procurement to assist with organ or tissue donation or transplantation.

**Military and Veterans:** The protected health information of members of the United States Armed Forces or member of a foreign military may be disclosed as required by military command authorities.

**Workers' Compensation:** We may use or disclose your protected health information for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injury or illness.

**Public Health Risks:** We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities which include the prevention or control of disease, injury or disability; to report births and deaths; to report child abuse or neglect; to report reactions to medications or products; to notify people of recalls of devices or products; to notify persons who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; or to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe you have been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. If you agree, we can provide immunization information to schools.

**Health Oversight Activities:** We may disclose protected health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and civil rights laws.

**Legal Proceedings:** We may disclose your protected health information when we receive a court or administrative order. We may also disclose your protected health information if we get a subpoena, or another type of discovery request. If there is no court order or judicial subpoena, the attorneys must make an effort to tell you about the request for your protected health information.

**Law Enforcement:** We may disclose protected health information, so long as applicable legal requirements are met for law enforcement purposes.

**National Security and Intelligence Activities:** When authorized by law, we may disclose your protected health information to federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities.

**Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors:** We may disclose protected health information to a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director so that they can carry out their duties.

**Inmates or Persons in Custody:** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose your protected health information to the correctional institution or law enforcement official if the disclosure is necessary for the institution to provide you with health care; when it is necessary to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or when it is necessary for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

## USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE US TO GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT OR OPT OUT

**Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care:** Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your protected health information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

**Disaster Relief:** We may disclose your protected health information to disaster relief organizations that seek your protected health information to coordinate your care, or notify family and friends of your location or condition in a disaster. We will provide you with an opportunity to agree or object to such a disclosure whenever we practically can do so.

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**Your Written Authorization is Required for Other Uses and Disclosures:** Uses and disclosures of your protected health information for marketing purposes or that constitute a sale of your protected health information, will be made only with your written authorization. Other uses and disclosures of protected health information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you do give us an authorization, you may revoke it at any time by submitting a written revocation to our office and we will no longer disclose protected health information under the authorization. But disclosure that we made in reliance on your authorization before you revoked it will not be affected by the revocation.

### YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Lincoln Center OB/GYN, P.A. participates in electronic health information technology or HIT. This technology allows a provider or a health plan to make a single request through a health information organization or HIO to obtain electronic records for a specific patient from other HIT participants for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations. HIOs are required to use appropriate safeguards to prevent unauthorized uses and disclosures.

You have two options with respect to HIT. First, you may permit authorized individuals to access your electronic health information through an HIO. If you choose this option, you do not have to do anything.

Second, you may restrict access to all of your information through an HIO (except as required by law). If you wish to restrict access, you must submit the required information either online at <http://www.KanHIT.org> or by completing and mailing a form. This form is available at <http://www.KanHIT.org>. You cannot restrict access to certain information only; your choice is to permit or restrict access to all of your information.

If you have questions regarding HIT or HIOs, please visit <http://www.KanHIT.org> for additional information.

If you receive health care services in a state other than Kansas, different rules may apply regarding restrictions on access to your electronic health information. Please communicate directly with your out-of-state health care provider regarding those rules.

**Right to Access:** You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of your protected health information. We have up to 30 days to make your protected health information available to you and we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. We may deny your request in certain limited circumstances. If we do deny your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional who was not directly involved in the denial of your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

**Right to an Electronic Copy of Electronic Medical Records:** You have the right to request that an electronic copy of your record be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity if your protected health information is maintained in an electronic format. We will make every effort to provide access to your protected health information in the form or format you request, if it is readily producible in such form or format. If the protected health information is not readily producible in the form or format you request, your record will be provided in either our standard electronic format or if you do not want this form or format, a readable hard copy form. We may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for the labor associated with transmitting the electronic medical record.

**Right to Notice of a Breach:** You have a right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured protected health information.

**Right to Request Amendments:** If you feel that the protected health information we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for us. A request for amendment must be made in writing to our Privacy Officer at the

address provided at the end of this Notice and it must tell us the reason for your request. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If we deny your request, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal.

**Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:** You have a right to an accounting of disclosures of your protected health information that is maintained in a designated record set. This is a list of persons, government agencies, or businesses who have obtained your health information. There are specific time limits on such requests. You have the right to one accounting per year at no cost.

**Right to Request Restrictions:** You have the right to ask us to restrict disclosures of your protected health information. If you self-pay for a service and do not want your health information to go to a third party payor, we will not send the information, unless it has already been sent, you do not complete payment, or there is another specific reason we cannot accept your request. For example, if your treatment is a bundled service and cannot be unbundled and you do not wish to pay for the entire bundle, or the law requires us to bill the third party payor (e.g., a governmental payor), we cannot accept your request. We do not have to agree to any other restriction. If we have previously agreed to another type of restriction, we may end that restriction. If we end a restriction, we will inform you in writing.

**Right to Request Confidential Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you only in certain ways to preserve your privacy.

**Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice:** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive it electronically. You may request a copy from our office or you may go to our website at [www.lincolncenterobbgn.com](http://www.lincolncenterobbgn.com).

**Right to File a Complaint:** If you believe your privacy rights as described in this Notice have been violated, you may file a written complaint with our Privacy Officer at the address listed at the end of this Notice, or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights by email at [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hlpaa/complaints/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hlpaa/complaints/index.html), or the Regional Office in Kansas City, 601 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street Room 248, Kansas City MO 64106, 816-426-7277. You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

**How to Exercise Your Rights:** To exercise your rights described in this Notice, send your request, in writing, to our Privacy Officer at the address listed at the end of this Notice. We may ask you to fill out a form that we will supply.

### CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this Notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the revised Notice effective for protected health information that we currently maintain in our possession, as well as for any protected health information we receive, use, or disclose in the future. A current copy of the Notice will be posted in our facilities.

**If you have any questions about this Notice or if you need more information, please contact our Privacy Officer at:**

Lincoln Center OB/GYN, PA  
800 SW Lincoln St  
Topeka, KS 66606-1515  
Phone: 785-233-5101  
Facsimile: 785-233-1404