

Emergencies: We may use or disclose your protected health information in an emergency treatment situation.

Communication Barriers: We may use and disclose your protected health information if we are unable to obtain consent from you but feel in our professional judgment that you intend to consent.

4. USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT MAY BE MADE WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION OR OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT

We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your consent or authorization. These situations include, but are not limited to:

Public Health Reporting: We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities and purposes to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive information.

Communicable Diseases: We may disclose your protected health information, if authorized by law, to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading the disease or condition.

Health Oversight: We may disclose your information to health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law such as audits, investigations, and inspections.

Abuse and/or Neglect: We may disclose your protected health information to a governmental entity or agency authorized by law to receive reports of suspected abuse/neglect.

Food and Drug Administration: We may disclose your protected health information to a person or company required by the FDA to report adverse events, product defects, biologic product deviations, etc.

Legal Proceedings: We may disclose protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding, in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose protected health information, so long as applicable requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes. These law enforcement purposes include (1) legal processes and otherwise required by law, (2) limited information requests for identification and location purposes, (3) pertaining to victims of a crime, (4) suspicion that death or injury has occurred as a result of criminal conduct, (5) in the event that a crime occurs on property owned or operated by Springhill Surgery Center, and (6) in the event of a medical emergency.

Coroners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation: We may disclose your protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for identification purposes, determining cause of death, or for them to perform other duties as required by law. Your protected health information may also be disclosed to a funeral director, as authorized by law, in order for the director to carry out their duties. We may disclose such information in the reasonable anticipation of death. Protected health information may be used and disclosed for cadaver organ, eye, or tissue donation purposes.

Research: We may disclose your protected health information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your information.

Criminal Activity: Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, we may disclose your protected health information, if we believe that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. We may also disclose protected health information if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

Military Activity and National Security: When the appropriate conditions apply, we may use or disclose protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces Personnel, (1) for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities, (2) for the purpose of a determination by the Department of Veterans Affairs of your eligibility for benefits, or (3) to foreign military authority if you are a member of that foreign military service. We may also disclose your protected health information to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities.

Worker's Compensation: Your protected health information may be disclosed by us as authorized to comply with worker's compensation laws and other similar legally-established programs.

Inmates: We may use or disclose your protected health information if you are an inmate of a correctional facility and your physician created or received your protected health information in the course of providing care to you.

Other Required Uses and Disclosures: Under the law, we must make disclosures when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of Section 164.500 et.seq.