

Kleppinger Family Dentistry Notice of Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL AND PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

I. Dental Practice Covered by this Notice

This Notice describes the privacy practice of Kleppinger Family Dentistry ("Dental Practice"). "We" and "our" refers to the dental practice. "You" and "your" refers to the patient.

II. Our Promise to You and Our Legal Obligations

The privacy of your health information is important to us. We understand that your health information is personal and we are committed to protecting it. This Notice describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information.

Protected health and personal information collected and used in this practice is information about you that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services. This information includes (but is not exclusive to) demographic information (name, date of birth, address, telephone number), Insurance information (if any), responsible party information, as well as medical and dental historical information.

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of your protected health information;
- Give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to that information; and
- Abide by the terms of our Notice that is currently in effect.

III. How We May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

The following examples describe different ways we may use or disclose your health information. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive.

A. Common Uses and Disclosures

1. Treatment. We may use your health information to provide you with dental treatment or services, such as cleaning or examining your teeth or performing dental procedures. We may disclose health information about you to dental specialists, physicians, or other health care professionals involved in your care.

2. Payment. We may use and disclose your health information to obtain payment from health plans and insurers for the care that we provide to you.

3. Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose health information about you in connection with health care operations necessary to run our practice, including review of our treatment and services, training, evaluating the performance of our staff and health care professionals, quality assurance, financial or billing audits, legal matters, and business planning and development.

4. Appointment Reminders. We may use or disclose your health information when contacting you to remind you of a dental appointment. We may contact you by using a phone call, voice message or email, or texting (SMS).

5. Treatment Alternatives and Health-Related Benefits and Services. We may use and disclose your health information to tell you about treatment options or alternatives or health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

6. Disclosure to Family Members and Friends. We may disclose your health information to a family member or friend who is involved with your care or payment for your care if you do not object or, if you are not present, we believe it is in your best interest to do so.

B. Less Common Uses and Disclosures

1. Disclosures Required by Law. We may use or disclose patient health information to the extent we are required by law to do so. For example, we are required to disclose patient health information to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services so that it can investigate complaints or determine our compliance with HIPAA.

2. Public Health Activities. We may disclose patient health information for public health activities and purposes, which include: preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting child abuse or neglect; reporting adverse reactions to medications or foods; reporting product defects; enabling product recalls; and notifying a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.

3. Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence. We may disclose health information to the appropriate government authority about a patient whom we believe is a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

4. Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose patient health information to a health oversight agency for activities necessary for the government to provide appropriate oversight of the health care system, certain government benefit programs, and compliance with certain civil rights laws.

5. Lawsuits and Legal Actions. We may disclose patient health information in response to (i) a court or administrative order or (ii) a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process that is not ordered by a court if efforts have been made to notify the patient or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

6. Law Enforcement Purposes. We may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official for a law enforcement purposes, such as to identify or locate a suspect, material witness or missing person or to alert law enforcement of a crime.

7. Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use or disclose your health information if we believe it is necessary to do so to prevent or lessen a serious threat to anyone's health or safety.

8. Workers' Compensation. We may disclose your health information to comply with workers' compensation laws or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

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IV. Your Rights with Respect to Your Health Information

You have the following rights with respect to certain health information that we have about you (information in a Designated Record Set as defined by HIPAA). To exercise any of these rights, you must submit a written request to our office receptionist.

A. Right to Access and Review

You may request to access and review a copy of your health information. We may deny your request under certain circumstances. You will receive written notice of a denial and can appeal it. We will provide a copy of your health information in a format you request if it is readily producible. If not readily producible, we will provide it in a hard copy format or other format that is mutually agreeable. If your health information is included in an Electronic Health Record, you have the right to obtain a copy of it in an electronic format and to direct us to send it to the person or entity you designate in an electronic format. We may charge a reasonable fee to cover our cost to provide you with copies of your health information.

B. Right to Amend

If you believe that your health information is incorrect or incomplete, you may request that we amend it. We may deny your request under certain circumstances. You will receive written notice of a denial and can file a statement of disagreement that will be included with your health information that you believe is incorrect or incomplete.

C. Right to Restrict Use and Disclosure

You may request that we restrict uses of your health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations or to your family member or friend involved in your care or the payment for your care. We may not (and are not required to) agree to your requested restrictions, with one exception: If you pay out of your pocket in full for a service you receive from us and you request that we not submit the claim for this service to your health insurer or health plan for reimbursement, we must honor that request.

D. Right to Confidential Communications, Alternative Means and Locations

You may request to receive communications of health information by alternative means or at an alternative location. We will accommodate a request if it is reasonable and you indicate that communication by regular means could endanger you. When you submit a written request our office receptionist, you need to provide an alternative method of contact or alternative address and indicate how payment for services will be handled.

E. Right to an Accounting of Disclosures

You have a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information for the seven (7) years prior to the date that the accounting is requested except for disclosures to carry out treatment, payment, health care operations (and certain other exceptions as provided by HIPAA).

V. Our Right to Change Our Privacy Practices and This Notice

We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time. Any change will apply to the health information we

have about you or create or receive in the future. We will promptly revise the Notice when there is a material change to the uses or disclosures, individual's rights, our legal duties, or other privacy practices discussed in this Notice. The effective date of this Notice is 09/04/2025

VI. How to Make Privacy Complaints

If you have any complaints about your privacy rights or how your health information has been used or disclosed, you may file a complaint with us by contacting our Privacy Official listed on the first page of this Notice.

You may also file a written complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you in any way if you choose to file a complaint.

VI. SMS Terms and Conditions

By opting into SMS from a web form or other medium, you are agreeing to receive SMS messages from Kleppinger Family Dentistry. This includes SMS messages for conversations. Message frequency varies. Message and data rates may apply.

SMS will primarily (but not exclusively) be used by the practice for appointment reminders and in response to messages initiated by you. SMS may be used to inform you about treatment options or alternatives or health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Message HELP for help. Reply STOP to any message to opt out

SMS consent is not shared with third parties.