

Hunter Creek Health and Rehabilitation, LLC
600 34th Street
Northport, AL 35473-3393
205-339-5900

PRIVACY NOTICE

**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.**

*THIS PRIVACY NOTICE COVERS YOUR NURSING HOME FACILITY AND THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
LISTED ON THE LAST PAGE WHO MAY PROVIDE SERVICES TO YOU IN THE NURSING HOME FACILITY.*

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS PRIVACY NOTICE IS JANUARY 29, 2013.

This Nursing Home Facility is required under the federal health care privacy rules (the "Privacy Rules") to protect the privacy of your health information, which includes information about your health history, symptoms, test results, diagnoses, treatment, and claims and payment history (collectively, "Health Information"). We are also required to provide you with this Privacy Notice regarding our legal duties, policies and procedures to protect and maintain the privacy of your Health Information. This Privacy Notice will be posted in a prominent location in the nursing home and will be posted on our website.

We are required to follow the terms of this Privacy Notice unless (and until) it is revised. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Privacy Notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all Health Information that we maintain and use, as well as for any Health Information that we may receive in the future. Should the terms of this Privacy Notice materially change, we will promptly make a revised copy of the notice available to you and post the revised notice in the nursing home and on our website.

PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION.

1. **General Uses and Disclosures.** Under the Privacy Rules, we are permitted to use and disclose your Health Information for the following purposes and in support of the following, without obtaining your permission, unless more stringent state or federal laws apply:
 - ▶ **Treatment.** We are permitted to use and disclose your Health Information in the provision and coordination of your health care. For example, we may disclose your Health Information to your physician and to other health care personnel who have a need for such information for your care and treatment.
 - ▶ **Payment.** We are permitted to use and disclose your Health Information for the purposes of determining coverage, billing, and reimbursement. This information may be released to Medicare, an insurance company, or other authorized entity or person involved in the payment of your medical bills and may include copies or portions of your medical record which are necessary for payment of your bill. For example, a bill sent to your insurance company may include information that identifies you, your diagnosis, and the procedures and supplies used in your treatment. You are permitted and have the right to restrict disclosures to your health plan related to services for which you pay "out of pocket".

- ▶ **Health Care Operations.** We are permitted to use and disclose your Health Information for our health care operations, including, but not limited to: quality assurance, auditing activity, credentialing activity, and for educational purposes. For example, we can use your Health Information to internally assess our quality of care provided to residents.
- ▶ **Health Care Providers Working in the Nursing Home.** Your nursing home and the various health care providers who render services to you in the nursing home are part of an "organized health care arrangement". (These health care providers are listed on the last page.) The nursing home and these providers have agreed, as permitted by the Privacy Rules, to share your Health Information among themselves as necessary to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations of the nursing home. This enables us to better address your health care needs.
- ▶ **Uses and Disclosures Required by Law.** We may use and disclose your Health Information when required to do so by law. We may also disclose your Health Information in legal proceedings, as well as in response to an order of a court, administrative tribunal, or in response to a subpoena, summons, warrant, discovery request, or similar legal request. We may disclose your Health Information to law enforcement officials when required to do so by law.
- ▶ **Public Health Activities.** We may disclose your Health Information for public health reporting, including, but not limited to: reporting communicable diseases and vital statistics; reporting product recalls and adverse events; or notifying person(s) who may have been exposed to a disease or are at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition.
- ▶ **Abuse and Neglect.** We may disclose your Health Information to a local, state, or federal government authority if we have a reasonable belief that abuse, neglect or domestic violence has occurred.
- ▶ **Regulatory Agencies.** We may disclose your Health Information to a health care oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These activities are necessary for the government and certain private health oversight agencies to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights.
- ▶ **Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors.** We may disclose your Health Information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to determine a cause of death. We may also disclose your health information to funeral directors, as necessary, to carry out their duties.
- ▶ **Research.** Under certain circumstances, we may disclose your Health Information to researchers when their clinical research study has been approved and where certain safeguards are in place to ensure the privacy and protection of your Health Information.
- ▶ **To Avert Threats to Health and Safety.** We may use or disclose your Health Information if we believe, in good faith, that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious or imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public, or is necessary for law enforcement to identify or apprehend an individual.

- ▶ **Specialized Government Functions.** Under limited circumstances, we may disclose your Health Information as required by military command authorities or for national security reasons.
 - ▶ **Workers' Compensation.** We may disclose your Health Information to your employer to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs.
 - ▶ **Marketing.** We may use or disclose your Health Information to make a marketing communication that occurs in a face-to-face encounter with us or which concerns a promotional gift of nominal value provided by us. The sale of your Health Information for paid marketing will require written authorization from you.
 - ▶ **Fundraising.** We may use and disclose your Health Information to make a fundraising communication to you, or your representative, for the purpose of raising funds for our own benefit. Included in such fundraising communications will be instructions describing how you may ask not to receive future communications.
 - ▶ **Organ and Tissue Donations.** If you are an organ donor, we may disclose your Health Information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes, or tissue for the purpose of facilitating donation and transplantation.
 - ▶ **Appointment Reminders/Treatment Alternatives.** We may use and disclose your Health Information to remind you of an appointment for treatment and medical care or to provide you with information regarding treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.
 - ▶ **Disclosures to Business Associates.** Other individuals and companies provide management assistance to us. Under the Privacy Rules, these individuals and companies are called Business Associates. We may disclose your Health Information to Business Associates who provide services to us. Our Business Associates are required to protect the confidentiality of your Health Information.
 - ▶ **Other Uses and Disclosures.** In addition to the items outlined above, we may use and disclose your Health Information (without your written permission) for other purposes permitted by the Privacy Rules.
2. **Uses and Disclosures Which Require an Opportunity to Verbally Agree or Object.** Under the Privacy Rules, we are permitted to use your Health Information for the creation of facility directories, and to disclose your Health Information to disaster relief agencies, and to family members, close personal friends or any other person identified by you, if the information is directly relevant to that person's involvement in your care or treatment. Except in emergency situations, you will be notified in advance and have the opportunity to verbally agree or object to this use and disclosure of your Health Information. We will ask that you identify one personal representative with whom we should discuss your care and treatment.
3. **Uses and Disclosures Which Require Your Written Authorization.** As required by the Privacy Rules, all other uses and disclosures of your Health Information (not described above) will be made only with your written permission, which is called an Authorization. You have the right to restrict disclosures to your health plan for any services you pay for "out of pocket". In

addition, in order to disclose your Health Information to a company for paid marketing purposes as well as other certain marketing purposes, we must obtain your Authorization. Most uses of psychotherapy notes maintained by the Nursing Home Facility will require your Authorization. Any uses or disclosures not described in this Privacy Notice will be made only with your Authorization. . Under the Privacy Rules, you may revoke your Authorization at any time. The revocation of your Authorization will be effective immediately, except to the extent that: we have relied upon it previously for the use and disclosure of your Health Information; if the Authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage where other law provides the insurer with the right to contest a claim under the policy or the policy itself; or where your Health Information was obtained as part of a research study and is necessary to maintain the integrity of the study.

PATIENT RIGHTS.

You have the following rights concerning your Health Information:

1. **Right to Inspect and Copy Your Health Information.** Upon written request, you have the right to inspect and copy your own Health Information contained in a designated record set, maintained by or for us. A "designated record set" contains medical and billing records and any other records that we use for making decisions about you. However, we are not required to provide you access to all the Health Information that we maintain. For example, this right of access does not extend to psychotherapy notes, or information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal or administrative proceeding. Where permitted by the Privacy Rules, you may request that certain denials to inspect and copy your Health Information be reviewed. If you request a copy or summary of explanation of your Health Information, we may charge you a reasonable fee for copying costs, including the cost of supplies and labor, postage, and any other associated costs in preparing the summary or explanation.
2. **Right to Request Restrictions on the Use and Disclosure of Your Health Information.** You have the right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your Health Information for treatment, payment and health care operations, as well as disclosures to persons involved in your care or payment for your care, such as family members or close friends. We will consider, but do not have to agree to, such requests.
3. **Right to Request an Amendment of Your Health Information.** You have the right to request an amendment of your Health Information. We may deny your request if we determine that you have asked us to amend information that: was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available; is not Health Information maintained by or for us; is Health Information that you are not permitted to inspect or copy; or we determine that the information is accurate and complete. If we disagree with your requested amendment, we will provide you with a written explanation of the reasons for the denial, an opportunity to submit a statement of disagreement, and a description of how you may file a complaint.
4. **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures of Your Health Information.** You have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your Health Information made by us within six (6) years prior to the date of your request. The accounting will not include: disclosures related to treatment, payment or health care operations; disclosures to you or your personal representative; disclosures based on your written Authorization; disclosures that are part of a Limited Data Set; incidental disclosures; disclosures to persons involved in your care or payment for your care; disclosures to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials; disclosures for facility directories; disclosures for national security purposes; or disclosures that occurred prior to April 14, 2003.
5. **Right to Alternative Communications.** You have the right to receive confidential communications of your Health Information by a different means or at a different location than currently provided. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

If you want to exercise any of these rights, please contact your Nursing Home Administrator or our Privacy Officer listed below. We ask that all requests be submitted to us in writing on a designated form (which we will provide to you), and returned to the attention of our Privacy Officer at the address below. In some cases, we may charge you a reasonable cost-based fee to carry out your request.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HOW TO REPORT A PRIVACY RIGHTS VIOLATION.

If you have questions and/or would like additional information regarding the uses and disclosures of your Health Information, you may contact our Privacy Officer at:

Address: 931 Fairfax Park
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406
Attn: Privacy Officer

Telephone: (205) 391-3600
Customer Service: (866) NHS-CALL (647-2255)
Facsimile: (205) 343-0842

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated or that we have violated our own privacy practices, you may file a complaint with us. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Complaints submitted directly to us must be in writing and sent to the attention of our Privacy Officer. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

The following health care providers may provide services to you in the nursing home as part of our organized health care arrangement and are covered by this Privacy Notice: Physicians; Dentists; Podiatrists; Optometrists; Physical, Occupational, Respiratory and Speech Therapists and Assistants; Rehabilitation Attendants; Dietary Consultants; Nurses; Psychologists and Social Workers; Hospice Workers; Pharmacists; Medical Equipment Suppliers; Diagnostic Providers; Physician Assistants; and Lab Technicians and Providers and other health care providers. These individuals may not be employees of the nursing home.