

(USED WITH PERMISSION)

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

As Required by the Privacy Regulations Promulgated Pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO YOUR IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

A. OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR PRIVACY

Our organization is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your identifiable health information. In conducting our business, we will create records regarding you and the treatment and services we provide to you. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of health information that identifies you. We also are required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices concerning your identifiable health information. By law, we must follow the terms of the notice of privacy practices that we have in effect at the time.

To summarize, this notice provides you with the following

important information:

How we may use and disclose your identifiable health information.

Your privacy rights in your identifiable health information.
Our obligations concerning the use and disclosure of your identifiable health information.

The terms of this notice apply to all records containing your identifiable health information that are created or retained by our practice. We reserve the right to revise or amend our notice of privacy practices. Any revision or amendment to this notice will be effective for all of your records our practice has created or maintained in the past, and for any of your records we may create or maintain in the future. Our organization will post a copy of our current notice in our offices in a prominent location, and you may request a copy of our most current notice during any office visit.

B. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NOTICE, PLEASE CONTACT

Compliance Officer, OrthoKinetix, 1835 Chicago Ave.
Ste. A Riverside, CA 92507 (909) 477-3117

C. WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

The following categories describe the different ways in which we may use and disclose your identifiable health information:

1. **Treatment.** Our organization may use your identifiable health information to treat you. For example, we may perform a

follow-up interview and we may use the results to help us modify your treatment plan. Many of the people who work for our organization may use or disclose your identifiable health information in order to treat you or to assist others in your treatment. Additionally, we may disclose your identifiable health information to others who may assist in your care, such as your physician, therapists, spouse, children, or parents.

2. **Payment.** Our organization may use and disclose your identifiable health information in order to bill and collect payment for the services and items you may receive from us. For example, we may contact your health insurer to certify that you are eligible for benefits (and for what range of benefits), and we may provide your insurer with details regarding your treatment to determine if your insurer will cover, or pay for, your treatment. We also may use and disclose your identifiable health information to obtain payment from third parties who may be responsible for such cost, such as family members. Also, we may use your identifiable health information to bill you directly of services and items.

3. **Health Care Operations.** Our organization may use and disclose your identifiable health information to operate our business. As examples of the ways in which we may use and disclose your information for operations, our organization may use your health information to elevate the quality of care you received from us or to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for our practice.

4. **Appointment Reminders.** Our organization may use and disclose your identifiable health information to contact you and remind you of visits/deliveries.

5. **Health-Related Benefits and Services.** Our organization may use and disclose your identifiable health information to inform you of health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.

6. **Release of information to Family/Friends.** Our organization may release your identifiable health information to a friend or family member who is helping you pay for your health care or assists in taking care of you.

7. **Disclosures Required By Law.** Our organization will use and disclose your identifiable health information when we are required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

D. USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH IN CERTAIN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The following categories describe unique scenarios in which we may use or disclose your identifiable health information:

1. **Public Health Risk.** Our organization may disclose your identifiable health information to public health authorities who are authorized by law to collect information for the purpose of:

- Maintaining vital records, such as births and death
- Reporting child abuse or neglect
- Preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability
- Notifying a person regarding potential exposure to a communicable disease
- Notifying a person regarding a potential risk for spreading or contracting a disease or condition
- Reporting reactions to drugs or problems with products or devices
- Notifying individuals if a product or device they may be using has been recalled
- Notifying appropriate government agency(ies) and authority(ies) regarding the potential abuse or neglect or an adult patient (including domestic violence); however, we will only disclose this information if the patient agrees or we are required or authorized by law to disclose this information
- Notifying your employer under limited circumstances related primarily to workplace injury or illness or medical surveillance.

2. **Health Oversight Activities.** Our organization may disclose your identifiable health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Oversight activities can include, for example, investigations, inspections, audits, surveys, licensure, and disciplinary actions; civil; administrative, and criminal procedures or actions; or other activities necessary for the government to monitor government programs, compliance with civil rights laws, and the health care system in general.

3. **Lawsuit and Similar Proceeding.** Our organization may use and disclose your identifiable health information in response to a court or administrative order if you are involved in a lawsuit or similar proceeding. We also may disclose your identifiable health information in response to a discovery request, subpoena, or other lawful process by another party involved in the dispute, but only if we have made an effort to inform you of the request or to obtain an order protecting the information the party has requested.

4. **Law Enforcement.** We may release identifiable health information if asked to do so by law enforcement official:

- Regarding a crime victim in certain situations, if we are unable to obtain the person's agreement
- Concerning a death we believe might have resulted from criminal conduct.