



# The Water's Edge

Notice of Privacy Practices  
Effective December 1, 2005

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**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.**

**UNDERSTANDING THE TYPE OF INFORMATION WE HAVE:**

We receive information about you during your first visit with us, including your name, date of birth, gender, ways to contact you, your social security number, financial information, insurance information and other personal information. We also collect information regarding your condition, diagnosis and treatment. Along with collecting this information from you, we also get enrollment and eligibility status from your health insurer and medical information from other health care providers.

**OUR PRIVACY COMMITMENT TO YOU:**

The information we collect about you is private. We are required to give you an idea of our privacy practices. Only those individuals who have both the need and the legal right may view your information. Unless you give us permission in writing, we will only disclose your information for purposes of treatment, payment, business operations, and when we are required by law to do so, or for one of the other reasons listed below.

- **Treatment:** We may use or disclose medical information about you to provide and coordinate your health care. For example, after your initial appointment with us, we usually send a letter to your referring physician regarding your treatment. Another letter shall be sent after you have been discharged from our care.
- **Payment:** Information may be disclosed so that the care you receive may be properly billed and paid for. For example, we may send your health insurer a bill for our services explaining the treatment you received and why.
- **Business Operations:** We may need to use and disclose information in our business operations. For example, in order to improve activity necessary to run the business (training) or for reviewing the quality of care that you and others receive from us.
- **Exceptions:** For certain kinds of records, your permission may be required, even for release of treatment, payment and business operations. We will provide you with authorization and consent forms for your signature in order for us to release certain information.
- **Phone Messages:** We may contact you via phone, answering machine or mail to provide you with authorization, referral, and billing information including information regarding other services that may be of interest to you. You may request in writing if you do not want this information to be left with a person other than yourself via phone.

- **As required by law and for other Government Functions:** We will release information when required to do so by law or for other government functions. Examples of such releases would be for law enforcement, subpoenas or other court orders, for national security purposes, communicable disease reporting, disaster relief, review of our activities by government agencies, to avert a serious threat to health or safety or in other kinds of emergencies.
- **Public Health and Safety:** We may use or disclose information about you as necessary to prevent or reduce a serious threat to the health or safety of another person or the public. For example, we will have to disclose information about certain diseases (and immunizations) to public health officials.
- **Family and Friends:** We may disclose your information to your family members, friends or others you identify to the extent it is relevant to their involvement with your care or payment for your care, or to let them know about where you are and your condition in the event of an emergency.
- **After Death:** We may disclose your information to coroners or medical examiners and funeral homes after you are deceased.
- **With Your Permission:** If you provide us permission in writing, we may use and disclose your personal information for the purposes you list. If you give us permission, you have the right to change your mind and revoke it, but this must also be in writing. We cannot take back any uses or disclosures previously made with your permission.

Our use and disclosure of your personal health information must comply not only with federal privacy regulations, but also with applicable Maryland law. Maryland law provides different protection to your personal health information. For example, Maryland law provides extra protection for minors; we must adhere to the more stringent state privacy protections.

#### **PATIENT RIGHTS:**

You have the following rights regarding the health information we have about you. Your requests must be made in writing to us at:

**The Water's Edge  
Business Manager/Patient Rights  
155 Sallitt Drive  
Stevensville, MD 21666**

We are committed to ensuring that you receive information regarding your rights as a patient at The Water's Edge.

- **Your Right to Inspect and Copy:** In most cases, you have the right to look at or receive copies of your medical records upon signing a Medical Record Release form, and in some cases paying a fee if we need to retrieve such records from storage. Please call ahead to ensure that we have your records available for you.
- **Your Right to Amend:** You may request us to modify your records if you feel the records are not correct. We may deny your request for certain reasons, but we must provide in writing to you the reason for our denial.
- **Your Right to a List of Disclosures:** You have the right to ask for a list of certain disclosures made after December 1, 2005. This list will include the times that information was disclosed for treatment, payment, or health care operations. The list will include information provided directly to you or your family, or information that was sent with your permission. It will include information released without your name or other data that would identify you.
- **Your Right to Request Restrictions on Our Use or Disclosure of Information:** You can ask for limits on how your information is used or disclosed. We are not required to agree to such a request, but may do so if we believe it is reasonable to do so.

- **Your Right to Request Confidential Communications:** You have the right to ask that we share information with you in a certain way or in a certain place. For example, you may ask us to send information to you at your business address instead of your home address or you may ask that we treat you in a private treatment room rather than a semi-private room. We will do our best to accommodate such requests whenever possible.

**CHANGES IN THIS NOTICE:**

We reserve the right to revise this notice. A revised notice will be effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we may receive in the future. We are required by law to comply with whatever notice is currently in effect. If the changes are material, a new notice will be posted.

**HOW TO USE THE RIGHTS UNDER THIS NOTICE:**

If you want to exercise your rights under this notice or have any questions regarding our privacy issues, you may call or write to us at:

**The Water's Edge  
Business Manager/Patient Rights  
155 Sallitt Drive  
Stevensville, MD 21666**

**Or call our Business Manager at:  
410-643-3130**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated or you wish to express your concern regarding non-compliance of our privacy policies and procedures, you may file a complaint by writing to the above address. We will require a written complaint and may further provide you with an official complaint form that you would need to complete for our records.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

HIPPA is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The revised and updated Privacy Rule portion of HIPAA, including many of the policies described in this notice, went into effect September 15, 2003. You may further research the policies and guidelines of HIPAA via the internet. We will also keep a copy of the final Standards of Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information at our front desk for patients to view if they wish.

A copy of this Notice of Privacy Policies will be posted at our office. You will need to read and acknowledge (via signature) that you have read these privacy policies and procedures. A copy of this acknowledgement will be kept in your file at our office.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

**I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Privacy Practices of The Water's Edge.**

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**Patient Name (Please Print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient (or Guardian) Signature**

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**Date Signed**