NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES EFFECTIVE 09/01/2013

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. THE PRIVACY OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about our privacy practices, to discuss questions or concerns, or to get additional copies of this notice, please contact our Privacy Officer:

Jennifer Dinucci  Telephone (401) 943-0644  Fax (401) 943-3276  Email drmatullo@nsmile.com

OUR LEGAL DUTY

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information ("medical information"), to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy policies with respect to protected health information, and to notify affected individuals following a breach of unsecured protected health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect on the date set forth at the top of this page, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make any change in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice applicable to all medical information we maintain, including medical information we created or received before we made the change.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION

We may use and disclose your medical information for different purposes, including treatment, payment, and health care operations. For each of these categories we have provided a description and an example. Some information, such as HIV-related information, genetic information, alcohol and/or substance abuse records, and mental health records may be entitled to special confidentiality protections under applicable state or federal law. We will abide by these special protections as they pertain to applicable cases involving these types of records.

Treatment: We may use and disclose your medical information, without your prior approval, to another health care provider for the purpose of evaluating your health, diagnosing medical conditions, and providing treatment. For example, we may disclose your medical information to a specialist to determine the course of your dental treatment.

Payment: We may use and disclose your medical information to obtain reimbursement for the treatment and services you receive from us or another entity involved with your care. Payment activities include billing, collections, claims management, and determinations of eligibility and coverage to obtain payment from you, an insurance company, or another third party. For example, we may send claims to your dental health plan containing medical information.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your medical information, without your prior approval, for health care operations. Health care operations include:
- Healthcare quality assessment and improvement activity;
- Reviewing and evaluating dental care provider performance, qualifications, and competence, health care training programs, provider accreditation, certification, licensing, and credentialing activities;
- Conducting or arranging for medical reviews, audits, and legal services including fraud, and abuse detection and prevention; and
- Business planning, development, management, and general administration, including customer service, complaint resolutions and billing, de-identifying medical information, and creating data sets for health care operations, public health activities, and research.

We may disclose your medical information to another dental or medical provider or to your health plan subject to federal privacy protection laws, as long as the provider or plan has or had a relationship with you and the medical information is for that provider’s or plan’s health care quality assessment and improvement activities, competence, and qualification evaluation and review activities, or fraud and abuse detection and prevention.

Your Authorization: You (or your legal representative) may give us written authorization to use your medical information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. Once you give us authorization to release your medical information, we cannot guarantee that the person to whom the information is provided will not disclose the information. You may revoke your written authorization at any time in writing, except if we have already acted based on your authorization. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us written authorization, we will not use or disclose your medical information for any purpose other than those described in this notice. We will obtain your authorization prior to using your medical information for marketing, fundraising purposes, or for commercial use. Once authorized, you may opt out of any of those communications.

Other Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Care: We may disclose your medical information to a family member, friend, or any other person you involve in your care or payment for your healthcare. We will disclose only the medical information that is relevant to the person’s involvement. Additionally, we may disclose medical information about you to a patient representative. If a person has the authority by law to make health care decisions for you, we will treat that patient representative the same way we would treat you with respect to your health information.

Health-Related Products and Services: We may use your medical information to communicate with you about health-related products, benefits, services, payment for those products and services, and treatment alternatives.

Plan Sponsors: If your dental insurance coverage is through an employer’s sponsored group dental plan, we may share summary health information with the plan sponsor.

Reminders: We may use or disclose medical information to send you reminders about your dental care, such as appointment reminders.

Disaster Relief: We may use or disclose your medical information to assist in disaster relief efforts. We will provide you with an opportunity to object to these disclosures, unless you are not present, or are incapacitated, or it an emergency disaster relief situation. In those situations, we will use our professional judgment to determine whether disclosing your medical information is in your best interest under the circumstances.

Required by Law: We may use or disclose your medical information when we are required to do so by law.
Public Health Activities: We may use and disclose your medical information, without your permission, when required by law, and when authorized by law for public health activities, including disclosures to:
- Prevent or control disease, injury, or disability;
- Report child abuse or neglect;
- Avert a serious and imminent threat to health or safety
- Report reactions to medications or problems with products or devices;
- Notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or condition;
- Notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

National Security: We may disclose to military authorities the medical information of Armed Forces personnel under certain circumstances. We may disclose to authorized federal officials health information required for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities. We may disclose to correctional institution or law enforcement officials having lawful custody the protected medical information of an inmate or patient.

Secretary of HHS: We will disclose your medical information to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when required to investigate or determine compliance with HIPAA.

Worker’s Compensation: We may disclose your medical information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to worker’s compensation or other similar programs established by law.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose your medical information for law enforcement purposes as permitted by HIPAA, as required by law, or in response to subpoena or court order.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose your medical information to an oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include audits, investigations, inspections, and credentialing, as necessary for licensure and for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You must make the request in writing. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact info at the beginning of this notice. If you request information that we maintain on paper, we may provide photocopies. If you request information that we maintain electronically, you have the right to an electronic copy. We will use the form and format you request if readily reproducible. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for the cost of supplies and labor for copying, and for postage if you want copied mailed to you.

If you are denied access, you have the right to have the denial reviewed in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

Disclosure Accounting: With the exception of certain disclosures, you have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your medical information in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to our Privacy Official. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to the additional requests.

Right to request a Restriction: You have the right to request additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your medical information by submitting a written request to the Privacy Official. Your written request must include (1) what information you want to limit, (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure, or both, and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply. We are not required to agree to your request except in the case where the disclosure is to a health plan for purposes of carrying out payment or health care operations, and the information pertains solely to a health care item or service for which you, or a person on your behalf (other than the health plan), has paid the practice in full.

Alternative Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your medical information by alternative means or at alternative locations. You must make your request in writing. Your request must specify the alternate means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation of how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. However, if we are unable to contact you using the ways or locations you have requested, we may contact you using the information we have.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. Your request must be made in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances. If we agree to your request, we will amend your record(s) and notify you of such. If we deny your request for an amendment, we will provide you with a written explanation of why we denied it and explain your rights.

Right to Notification of a Breach: You will receive notifications of breaches of your unsecured protected health information as required by law.

Electronic Notice: You may receive a paper copy of this notice upon request, even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically on our website or by electronic mail (email).

QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us. If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or if you disagree with a decision with a decision we made about access to your health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your medical information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at an alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the start of the notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.