

6. **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** You are entitled to receive a paper copy of our notice of privacy practices. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time.
7. **Right to File a Complaint.** If you believe your child's privacy rights have been violated you may file a complaint with our practice, or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our practice, contact the office manager. All complaints must be submitted in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**
8. **Right to Provide an Authorization for Other Uses and Disclosures.** Our practice will obtain your written authorization for uses and disclosures that are not identified by this notice or permitted by applicable law. Any authorization you provide us regarding the use and disclosure of your child's IIHI may be revoked at any time **in writing**. After you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your IIHI for the reasons described in the authorization. Please note we are required to retain records of your child's care.

Again, if you have any questions regarding this notice or our health information privacy policies, please contact our office manager.

Date: April 14, 2003

**FOSTER CITY PEDIATRICS
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

As required by the Privacy Regulations Created as a Result of the Health Insurance Portability
And Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

This notice describes how health information about your child (as a patient of this practice) may be used and disclosed, and how you can get access to your child's individually identifiable health information.

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY

Our Commitment to your privacy:

Our practice is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your child's individually identifiable health information (IIHI). In conducting our business, we will create records regarding your child and the treatment and services we provide to him or her. We are required by law to maintain the confidentiality of health information that identifies your child. We also are required by law to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and the privacy practices that we maintain in our practice concerning your child's IIHI. By federal and state law, we must follow the terms of the notice of privacy practices that we have in effect at the time.

We realize that these laws are complicated, but we must provide you with the following important information:

- How we may use and disclose your child's IIHI
- Your privacy rights in your child's IIHI
- Our obligations concerning the use and disclosure of your child's IIHI

The terms of this notice apply to all records containing your child's IIHI that are created or retained by our practice. We reserve the right to revise or amend this Notice of Privacy Practices. Any revision or amendment to this notice will be effective for all of your child's records that our practice has created or maintained in the past, and for any of your child's records that we may create or maintain in the future. Our practice will post a copy of our current Notice in our office in a visible location at all times, and you may request a copy of our most current Notice at any time. If you have questions about this notice, please contact the office manager.

We may use and disclose your child's Individually Identifiable Health Information (IIHI) in the following ways:

The following categories describe the different ways in which we may use and disclose your child's IIHI.

1. **Treatment.** Our practice may use your child's IIHI to treat him or her. For example, we may ask your child to have laboratory tests (such as blood or urine test), and we may use the results to help us reach a diagnosis. We might use your child's IIHI in order to write a prescription for your child. Many of the people who work for our practice, including, but not limited to our doctors and medical assistants may use or disclose your child's IIHI in order to treat your child or to assist others in his or her treatment. Additionally, we may disclose your child's IIHI to others who may assist in his or her care, such as your spouse. Finally, we may also disclose your child's IIHI to other health care providers for purposes related to his or her treatment.
2. **Payment.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's IIHI in order to bill and collect payment for the services and items your child may receive from us. For example, we may contact your child's health insurer to certify that he or she is eligible for benefits (and for what range of benefits), and we may provide your child's insurer with details regarding his or her treatment to determine if your child's insurance will cover, or pay for treatment. We also may use and disclose your child's IIHI to obtain payment from third parties that may be responsible for such costs, such as family members. Also we may use your child's IIHI to bill you directly for services and items. We may disclose your child's IIHI to other health care providers and entities to assist in their billing and collection efforts.

3. **Health Care Operations.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's information for our operations. Our practice may use the IIHI to evaluate the quality of care your child received from us, or to conduct cost-management and business planning activities for our practice. We may disclose your child's IIHI to other health care providers to assist in their health care operations.
4. **Appointment Reminders.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's IIHI to contact you and remind you of an appointment.
5. **Treatment Options.** Our practice may use and disclose your IIHI to inform you of potential treatment options or alternatives.
6. **Health Related Benefits and Services.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's IIHI to inform you of health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.
7. **Release of Information to Family/Friends.** Our practice may release your child's IIHI to a friend or family member that is involved in his or her care. For example, a parent or guardian may ask that a babysitter bring their child to our office for treatment of a cold. In this example, the babysitter may have access to this child's medical information.
8. **Disclosures Required By Law.** Our practice will use and disclose your child's IIHI when we are required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

Use and Disclosure of your child's IIHI in certain special circumstances.

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

1. **Public Health Risks.** Our practice may disclose your child's IIHI to public health authorities that are authorized by law to collect information:
 - maintaining vital records, such as births and deaths
 - 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
2. **Health Oversight Activities.** Our practice may disclose your IIHI 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, compliances with civil rights laws and the health care system in general.
3. **Lawsuits and Similar Proceedings.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's IIHI in response to a court or administrative order, if you are involved in a lawsuit or similar proceeding. We also may disclose your child's IIHI 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 IIHI if asked to do so by a 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 has resulted from criminal conduct
 - Regarding criminal conduct in our office
 - In response to a warrant, summons, court order, subpoena or similar legal process
 - To identify/locate a suspect, material witness, fugitive or missing person
 - In an emergency, to report a crime (including the location of victims of the crime, or the description, identity or location of the perpetrator)
5. **Serious Threats to Health or Safety.** Our practice may use and disclose your child's IIHI when necessary to reduce or prevent a serious threat to your child's health and safety or the health and safety of another individual or the public. Under these circumstances, we will only make disclosures to a person or organization to help prevent the threat.

6. **National Security.** Our practice may disclose your child's IIHI to federal officials for intelligence and national security activities authorized by law. We also may disclose your child's IIHI to federal officials in order to protect the President, other officials or foreign heads of state, or to conduct investigations.
7. **Inmates.** Our practice may disclose your child's IIHI to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials if your child is an inmate or under custody of a law enforcement official. Disclosure for these purposes would be necessary: (a) for the institution to provide health care to your child, (b) for the safety and security of the institution, and/or (c) to protect your child's health and safety or the health and safety of other individuals.

Your rights regarding your child's IIHI.

You have the following rights regarding the IIHI that we maintain about your child:

1. **Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that our practice communicate with you about your child's health and related issues in a particular manner or at a certain location. For instance, you may ask that we contact you at home, rather than work. In order to request a type of confidential communication, you must make a written request to the office manager specifying the requested method of contact, or the location where you wish to be contacted. Our practice will accommodate **reasonable** requests. You do not need to give a reason for your request.
 - (a) the information you wish restricted;
 - (b) whether you are requesting to limit our practice's use, disclosure or both; and
 - (c) to whom you want the limits to apply.
2. **Requesting Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your child's IIHI for treatment, payment, or health care operations. Additionally, you have the right to request that we restrict our disclosure of your child's IIHI to only certain individuals involved in your child's care or the payment of your child's care, such as family members or friends. **We are not required to agree to your request;** however if we do agree, we are bound by our agreement except when otherwise required by law, in emergencies, or when the information is necessary to treat your child. In order to request a restriction in our use or disclosure of your child's IIHI, you must make your request in writing to the office manager. Your request must describe in a clear and concise fashion:
 - (a) the information you wish restricted;
 - (b) whether you are requesting to limit our practice's use, disclosure or both; and
 - (c) to whom you want the limits to apply.
3. **Inspection and Copies.** You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of the IIHI that may be used to make decisions about your child, including patient medical records and billing records, but not including psychotherapy notes. You must submit your request in writing to the office manager in order to inspect and /or obtain a copy of your IIHI. Our practice may charge a fee for those costs of copying, mailing, labor and supplies associated with your request. Our practice may deny your request to inspect and/or copy in certain limited circumstances; however, you may request a review of our denial. Another licensed health care professional chosen by us will conduct reviews.
4. **Amendment.** You may ask us to amend your child's health information if you believe it is incorrect or incomplete, and you may request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our practice. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to the office manager. You must provide us with a reason that supports your request for amendment. Our practice will deny your request if you fail to submit your request (and the reason supporting your request) in writing. Also, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that is in our opinion: (a) accurate and complete; (b) no part of the IIHI kept by or for the practice; (c) no part of the IIHI which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or (d) not available to amend information.
5. **Accounting of Disclosures.** All of our patients have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures". An "accounting of disclosures" is a list of certain non-routine disclosures our practice has made of your IIHI for non-treatment, non-payment, or non-operations purposes. Use of your child's IIHI as part of the routine patient care in our practice is not required to be documented. For example, the doctor sharing information with the nurse or medical assistant; or the billing department using your information to file your insurance claim. In order to obtain an account of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to our office manager. All requests for an "accounting of disclosures" must state a time period, which may not be longer than six (6) years from the date of the disclosure and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first list you request within a 12 month period is free of charge, but our practice may charge you for additional lists within the same 12 month period. Our practice will notify you of the costs involved with additional requests, and you may withdraw your request before you incur any costs.