

NORTH STATE ORTHOPAEDICS

Notice of Privacy Practices

Recent HIPAA (Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) legislation restricts the collection, use and sharing of confidential medical and personal information. This information includes items such as your name, age, date of birth, telephone numbers, address, social security number, information about your health, work, employment, family, medication use, diagnostic data, health insurance, etc.

At North State Orthopaedics, we use the information obtained from you, your referring Physician, and other healthcare providers, insurance carriers, pharmacies, and diagnostic facilities for the purpose of:

- Scheduling for consultations and treatments at this office and other healthcare facilities
- Evaluation and treatment
- Identifying a particular patient to locate him/her within our waiting room area
- Discussing diagnosis and treatment plan with staff, and other healthcare providers within this office
- Discussing diagnosis and treatment with your family members or guardian after obtaining your written or verbal consent
- Referring you for further diagnostic studies (x-ray, MRI, CT scan, blood work, etc.)
- Referral to other providers such as Consultants, Physical Therapists, Surgeons, Home Care agencies, etc
- Billing and collection firm use.
- Sending Reports to your Attorney, Insurers, Nurse Case Manager.
- Dictation transcribing company's use
- Sending information to other persons or firms where you have signed a "Release of Medical Information" form.

The information is stored in paper charts and computers at this office and is shared via fax, email, telephone, and personal communications. We share only the minimum information necessary, and only for appropriate use. This office does not provide, sell, or market the information to commercial firms for marketing reasons.

The HIPPA guidance clarifies that a health care provider may rely on his or her professional judgment in determining whether there is an emergency which would justify foregoing the consent requirements, as is permitted by the Privacy Standards.