

Notice of privacy practices

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

OUR LEGAL DUTIES: Kats Eye Care and Associates, PC are committed to protecting your privacy. This Notice tells about the uses and disclosures we make of your personal health information, including certain rights that you have, and obligations we are bound to, with respect to such information. We are required by applicable federal and state law to do the following: maintain the privacy and safeguard the security of your health information; Give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your health information; notify you, along with all other affected individuals, of a breach of unsecured health information; and Follow the privacy practices *that* are described in this Notice while it is In effect This Notice takes effect August 30, 2013, 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 the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all health information that we maintain, including health information we created or received before we made the changes. In the event we make a material change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and provide to you at your next visit or it can be viewed in the store or on our Web site. You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

NOTE: We will request that you sign an acknowledgment of receiving of this Notice; however, **your decision not to sign the acknowledgment may affect your ability to obtain treatment in our office. Our office has the right to refuse services if you refuse to acknowledge receipt of this Notice.**

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION. We use health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment for treatment, for administrative purposes, and to evaluate the quality of care and service *that* you receive. Your health information is contained in a medical or optical dispensary record *that* is the physical property of **Kats Eye Care and Associates, PC**. Your health information consists of any information, whether in oral or recorded form, that is created or received by us and individually identifies you, and that relates to your past present or future physical or mental health or condition; the provision of health care to you; or the past present or future payment for the provision of health care to you.

HOW WE MAY USE OR DISCLOSE Your health information - **FOR TREATMENT** We may use or disclose your health information to an optometrist, ophthalmologist, optician or other health care providers providing treatment to you for the provision, coordination, or management of health care and related services by health care providers; consultation between health care providers relating to a patient/customer the referral of a patient for health care from one health care provider to another, or appointment and refill reminders, and recall information. **FOR PAYMENT** We may use and disclose your health information to others for purposes of processing and receiving payment for treatment and services provided to you. This may include: billing and collection activities and related data processing; actions by a health plan or insurer to determine or fulfill its responsibilities for coverage and provision of benefits under health plan or insurance agreement, determinations of eligibility or coverage, adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims; medical necessity and appropriateness of care reviews, utilization review activities; and disclosure to consumer reporting agencies of information relating to collection of payments.

FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS We may use and disclose health information about you for health care operational purposes. For example, your health information may be disclosed to: evaluate the performance of our associates; assess the quality of service, product and care in your case and similar cases; learn how to improve our facilities and services; conduct training programs or credentialing activities; facilitate compliance functions, auditing and legal services; determine how to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the products, service and care we provide, including customer satisfaction surveys and data analysis; properly manage our business, including acquisitions, mergers and consolidations; and communicate with you concerning (a) a health-related product or service that is provided by us, (b) your treatment or (c) case management, care coordination or to recommend alternative treatments, therapies, providers or settings for care to the extent such activities are not within your current treatment. However, if we receive compensation for making a communication concerning another entity's products or services (other than payment for treatment), the communication is "marketing" and will require *that* we obtain your prior written authorization as described in the Marketing section, below.

APPOINTMENTS, TREATMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE We may use your information to provide appointment and refill reminders or recall notices (such as voice mail messages, postcards or letters) or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits, products and services *that* may be of interest to you. We may also contact you to conduct our own surveys about the quality of the products and services we provide.

TO YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS We must disclose your health information to you, as described in the Your Health Information rights section of this Notice. We may disclose your health information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your health care or with payment for your health care, but only you agree *that* we may do so or, you are not able to agree, it is necessary in our professional judgment.

PERSONS INVOLVED IN CARE We may use or disclose health information to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a family member, your **personal representative or another person responsible** for your care, of your location or your general condition. If you are present, then prior to use or disclosure of your health information, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. In the event of your incapacity or emergency circumstances, we will disclose health information based on a determination using our professional judgment disclosing only health information that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your health care. We will also use our professional judgment and our experience with common practice to make reasonable inferences in your best interest in allowing a person to pick up filled prescriptions, medical supplies, photos, or other similar forms of health information. **REQUIRED BY LAW** We may use and disclose information about you as permitted or required by applicable law. For example, we may disclose information for the following purposes: for judicial and administrative proceedings pursuant to court order or specific legal authority; pursuant to a standpoint custody and child care or support arrangement authorized by law or court order, to report information related to victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence; to assist law enforcement officials in their law enforcement duties; or to assist public health, safety or law enforcement officials avert a serious threat to the health or safety of you or any other person. **PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES; DECEDENTS** We may disclose your health information to your personal representatives authorized under applicable law, such as a guardian, power of attorney for health care, or court appointed administrator. Your health Information may also be disclosed to executors legally authorized family members, funeral directors or coroners to enable them to carry out their lawful duties upon your death. **ORGAN TISSUE DONATION** Your health information may be used or disclosed for cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes, provided we follow applicable laws. **RESEARCH** We may use your health information for research purposes when an institutional review board or privacy board *that* has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information has approved the research. **GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS** Specialized government functions such as protection of public officials or reporting to various branches of the armed services *that* may require use or disclosure of your health information. **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION** We may disclose your health information when necessary for the proper management and administration of our business and for fulfilling our legal responsibilities, including disclosures to certain advisers and consultants when necessary, subject to applicable confidentiality and business associate agreement requirements.

WORKER COMPENSATION Your health information may be used or disclosed in order to comply with laws and regulations related to Worker Compensation.

MARKETING PRODUCTS OR SERVICES "Marketing" means to make a communication to you that encourages you to purchase or use a product or service. We will not use or disclose your health information for marketing communications without your prior written authorization. However, we may conduct face to face communications between you and us, and we may offer a promotional gift of nominal value, without such authorization. We are also permitted to communicate with you regarding health products or services (including information about entities participating in our provider network or health plan), treatment, case management or care coordination uncovering recommending alternative treatments, providers or settings for care). However, if we will receive compensation (directly or indirectly) in return for making any such communications, we must first obtain your written authorization, unless the communication describes only a drug or biologic that is currently prescribed for you and any

compensation we receive relates solely to the cost of making the communication. This requirement does not apply to any payment or compensation for providing treatment to you.

SALE OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION We will never sell your health information without your prior authorization. However, we, or our business associate, may receive compensation (directly or indirectly) related to an exchange of your health information for the following purposes: (a) public health activities; (b) research purposes (if the price charged reflects the cost of preparation and transmittal of the information); (c) payment or compensation for your treatment; (d) health care operations related to the sale, merger or consolidation of all or part of our business; (e) performance of services by a business associate on our behalf; (f) providing you with a copy of your health information; or (g) other reasons determined necessary or appropriate by applicable laws or regulations.

ELECTRONIC DISCLOSURES We use and disclose your health information electronically for various purposes such as treatment, payment (including, where applicable, performing insurance and health maintenance organization/managed care functions), health care operations and other purposes permitted or required by law, including electronic disclosures to our business associates. We need to disclose your health information electronically for other purposes, we will obtain your authorization, either in writing or electronically, as described in this Notice. **YOUR AUTHORIZATION** In addition to our use or disclosure of your health information for treatment, payment or health care operations, you may give us written authorization to use your health information or to disclose IT to anyone for any other purpose. We will not condition your current or future treatment on the basis of providing an authorization. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot use or disclose your health information for any reason except those described in this Notice.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS ACCESS: You *have* the right to review or get copies of your health information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. You may be asked to make a request in writing to obtain access to your health information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. We may charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies and staff time. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice setting forth the specific information to which you desire access you request an alternative format, provided that it is practicable for us to produce the information in such format, we may charge a cost-based fee for preparing and transmitting your health information in that format you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your health information for a cost-based fee we use or maintain an electronic health record ("EHR") with respect to your care, you have the right to request a copy or! your information in electronic format, and to direct us to transmit a copy of your information to a third party designated by you; and our fee may not exceed our labor costs in responding to such request Please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

DISCLOSURE ACCOUNTING: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations, where you have provided an authorization and certain other activities, for the last 6 years (or a shorter period if our relationship with you has existed for less than 6 years). 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 these additional requests. With respect to disclosures made by our business Associates, we may choose to provide you with a list of business associates acting on our behalf, along with their contact information, who must provide you will the accounting upon a request made directly by you to such entities.

RESTRICTION: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your hearth information. Except as noted below, we are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency). Upon your request, and except as otherwise required by law, we will not disclose your health information to a health plan for purposes of payment or health care operations when the information relates solely to a service/product for which you paid out-of-pocket in full.

ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION: You have the right to request in writing that we communicate with you about your health information by alternative means or to a1ternative locations. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how payments will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

AMENDMENT: You have the right to request that we amend your health information. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances. You may obtain a form to request an amendment to your health information by using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice.

ELECTRONIC NOTICE: If you receive this Notice on our Website or by electronic mail (email, you are entitled to *receive* this Notice in written form, as well.

BREACH OF UNSECURED HEALTH INFORMATION: we discover that your health information has been breached (for example, disclosed to or acquired by an unauthorized person, stolen, lost, or otherwise used or disclosed in violation of applicable privacy law) and the privacy or security of the information has been compromised, we must notify you of the breach without unreasonable delay and in no event later than 60 days following our discovery of the breach.

PRIVACY QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS If you want more information about our privacy practices or have privacy questions or concerns, please contact us. If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree 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 health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice.

You may separately choose to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights (OCR), by completing a Health Information Privacy Complaint Form (available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/hipaacomplaintform.pdf> and sending to the applicable OCR Regional Office listed on the form, or by calling 1-800-368-1019 for instructions and contact information.

An electronic complaint may be filed at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html>. You must file a complaint with OCR within 180 days (6 months) after the occurrence of the act or omission giving rise to your complaint. We support your right to the privacy of your health information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the Office of Civil Rights.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions or complaints relating to privacy, please contact:

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