



We are required by law to provide you with this notice that explains our privacy practices with regard to your medical information and how we may use and disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment, and for health care operations, as well as for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. You have certain rights regarding the privacy of your protected health information and information access, and we describe them in this notice. Please review carefully.

Ways in Which We May Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information:

The following paragraphs describe different ways that we use and disclose your protected health information. We have provided an example for each category, but these examples are not meant to be exhaustive. We assure you that all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose your health information fall within one of these categories:

Treatment. We may use and disclose your protected health information, including full-face photographs, to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. We may also disclose your health information to other physicians who may be treating you. Additionally we may from time to time disclose your health information to another physician who we have requested to be involved in your care. For example – we would disclose your health information to a specialist to whom we have referred you for a diagnosis to help in your treatment.

Payment. We may use and disclose your protected health information to obtain payment for the health care services we provide you. For example – we may include information with a bill to a third-party payer that identifies you, your diagnosis, procedures performed, and supplies used in rendering the service.

Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your protected health information to support the business activities for our practice. For example – we may use medical information about you to review and evaluate our treatment and services or to evaluate our staff's performance while caring for you. In addition, we may disclose your health information to third party business associates who perform billing, consulting, or transcription-type services for our practice.

Appointment Reminders & Outreach. We may use and disclose your protected health information to contact you regarding a pending appointment, a missed appointment, an overdue appointment, a completed appointment, balances due, or any other healthcare-related function.

By supplying your email address, home phone number, and/or mobile phone number, and any other personal contact information, you authorize your healthcare provider and its employees, agents, and assignees to contact you via email, telephone, and/or text messaging, including using automated outreach and messaging systems. You may consent to allowing detailed messages being left on your voicemail, answering system, or with another individual, if you are unavailable at your provided number.

Treatment Alternatives. We may use and disclose your protected health information to tell you about or to recommend possible alternative treatments or options that may be of interest to you.

Others Involved in Your Care. When necessary and authorized, we may disclose your protected health information to a family member, a relative, a close friend, or any other person you identify that is involved in your medical care or payment for care.

Education & Publication. We may use and disclose your protected health information for internal educational purposes and trainings. Unless it has been de-identified, we will not share your protected health information in outside publications or educational settings such as professional meetings, conferences, or outside lectures without your specific consent.

Research. We may use and disclose your protected health information to researchers provided the research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information.

As Required by Law. We may use and disclose your protected health information when required to by federal, state, or local law. You may request an accounting of such disclosures at any time (refer to An Accounting of Disclosures paragraph on the next page for details).

To Avert a Serious Threat to Public Health or Safety. We may use and disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is permitted to collect or receive the information for the purpose of controlling disease, injury, or disability, and, with parental permission, proof of immunization to a school where required by law. If directed by a health authority, we will also disclose your health information to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

Worker's Compensation. We may use and disclose your protected health information for worker's compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness in accordance with state law.

Inmates. We may use and disclose your protected health information to a correctional institution or law enforcement official if you are an inmate of that correctional institution or under the custody of the law enforcement official. This information would be necessary for the institution to provide you with health care; to protect the health and safety of others, or for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Your Health Information Rights

Although your health record is the physical property of the practice, the information belongs to you. You have the right to:

A Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to receive a paper copy of this notice upon request. You may obtain a copy by asking a team member at your next visit or by calling and asking us to send you a copy. You may also print a copy from our website at www.shahdermatologyLLC.com.

Inspect and Copy. You have the right to inspect and obtain a copy the protected health information that we maintain about you in our designated record set for as long as we maintain that information. This designated record set includes your medical and billing records, as well as any other records we use for making decisions about you. You may request an electronic copy of your information in a form you specify; however, if we are not able to provide the information in the form requested, we must contact you to determine a suitable alternative. Any psychotherapy notes that may have been included in records we received about you are not available for your inspection or copying by law. We may charge you a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies used in fulfilling your request. If you wish to inspect or copy your medical information, you must submit your request in writing to our practice administrator at Shah Dermatology, LLC, 37767 Market Drive, Suite 200, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. You may mail in your request or bring it to our office. We have 30 days to respond to your request for information that we maintain at our practice site. If the information is stored off-site, we are allowed an additional 30 days to respond but must inform you of this delay in writing.

Request Amendment. You have the right to request that we amend your medical information if you feel that it is incomplete or inaccurate. You must make this request in writing to our practice administrator, stating exactly what information is incomplete or inaccurate and your reasoning that support the request. We may also deny your request if; (i) the information was not created by us, or the person who created it is no longer available to make the amendment; (ii) the information is not part of the record which you are permitted to inspect and copy; (iii) the information is not part of the designated record set kept by this practice; or (iv) if it is the opinion of the health care provider that the information is accurate and complete.

Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation of how we use or disclose your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations. For example, you could request that we not disclose information to your insurance carrier about a treatment that you paid for in full out of pocket. Your request must be made in writing to our practice administrator. Other than the example above, we are not required to agree to your request if we feel it is in your best interest to use or disclose that information. However, if we do agree, we will comply with your request unless that information is needed for emergency treatment.

An Accounting of Disclosure. You have the right to request a list of the disclosures of your health information we have made outside of our practice that were not for the purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations. Your request must be made in writing and must state the time period for the requested information. You may request information about disclosures for any dates within the six years prior to the date of your request (our legal obligation to retain information). Your first request for a list of disclosures within a 12-month period will be free. If you request an additional list within 12-months of the first request, we may charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for providing the subsequent list. We will notify you of such costs and afford you the opportunity to withdraw your request before any costs are incurred.

Request Confidential Communications. Our practice may communicate electronically with patients through our patient portal, payment portal, website, telephone, practice email, individual team member or provider emails, and/or text messages. You have the right to request how we communicate with you to preserve your privacy. For example – you may request that we call you only at your work number, or contact you by mail at a special address or postal box. Your request must be made in writing and must specify how or where we are to contact you. We will accommodate all reasonable requests, and all such requests are valid until revoked in writing.

File a Complaint. If you believe we have violated your medical information privacy rights, you have the right to file a complaint with our practice administrator or directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with our administrator, you must make it in writing within 180 days of the suspected violation. Provide as much detail as you can about the suspected violation and send it attention to Privacy Officer, Shah Dermatology, LLC. There cannot be retaliation for your filing a complaint.

Uses or Disclosures Not Covered

Uses or disclosures of your health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us may only be made with your written authorization. For example, if you request that we transfer your medical records to another provider, we will ask you to sign an authorization for us to do so. You may revoke such authorization in writing at any time and we will no longer disclose health information about you for the reasons stated in your written authorization. Disclosures made in reliance on the authorization prior to the revocation are not affected by the revocation.

Facility Safeguards

Any non-patient or non-employee/affiliate who visits our office and enters any area, other than our main waiting room, must sign-in and wear a name tag to clearly identify themselves. Certain facilities may have security cameras and/or alarm systems in place, as necessary and appropriate.

For More Information

If you have questions or would like additional information, you may contact our practice administrator at 301.884.0278.



Center for Advanced
Aesthetics

Acknowledgement of Receipt & Consent: Notice of Privacy Practices

My signature below indicates that I have reviewed, acknowledge, and consent to the information contained within the practice's Notice of Privacy Practices (last revised January 2, 2024). I understand that these policies are subject to change without prior notice and that I may request a copy of the current policies at any time.

Signature of Patient (or Legal Representative)

Date

Print Name of Patient

Print Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)