

ISLAND PEDIATRICS PRIVACY POLICY NOTIFICATION

Introduction

Island Pediatrics is committed to protecting the privacy of our patients. In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Island Pediatrics has created a Privacy Policy. The purpose of this notification is to familiarize you with the existence of our policy as well as give you an overview of its contents. The full written policy is available for you to review on request.

Highlights

Island Pediatrics will use your private information in a variety of ways to facilitate your care. Some of these uses require your written consent and some do not. Private information (termed Protection Health Information or PHI in HIPAA), includes anything which individually might identify you, (Name, SSN, Addresses, Diagnoses, etc).

Island Pediatrics may use your private information without written consent to communicate with emergency rooms, hospitals, specialist, lab and x-ray facilities, and other facilities involved in the current treatment of the patient. Also, any release required by law (mandatory notification of contagious disease to the health department, issues involving abuse or neglect, adverse drug and treatment reports to the FDA, issues involving criminal activity to law enforcement, or other releases required by law) may take place.

Island Pediatrics requires your written consent to release private information to parties other than those listed above. This includes release to relatives other than immediate caretakers, to attorneys, to employers, to life insurance or disability insurance carriers, to research projects, or any others not listed previously.

Island Pediatrics does have business relationships with some companies who might periodically have access to your private information. These include our attorneys, practice management consultants, computer system consultants and others. The purpose of access in these situations is for entities to advise us, internally, on our practice operations. Island Pediatrics maintains a contractual agreement with these entities which restricts their use of private information to their business relationship with us.

Island Pediatrics does increasingly use computer systems to transmit private information. This is largely to transmit claim and referral information with insurers and to exchange private information with other health care facilities. HIPAA mandates the secure electronic transmission of private information and we are in compliance with these requirements.

Island Pediatrics does use private information during the day to day operations of the office. While certain uses of private information (such as calling you by name in the waiting room) are acceptable, others (such as another patient overhearing a telephone conversation regarding your case) are not. From after hours security systems, to keeping charts outside of patient areas, to minimizing the volume of our conversations, to shutting exam room doors and others, we are committed to preventing inadvertent disclosures. Your feedback about how we are doing in this or any other area is strongly encouraged.

