

# HIPAA-FREE OFFICE

## CERTIFICATE OF PRIVACY ASSURANCE TO PATIENTS

The protection of your health information is a high priority in our office. The confidence and trust you have placed with us is appreciated and honored.

Under the new federal rules passed in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), your personal and health care information could be obtained by many third parties (especially government agencies) without your consent. The new rules for HIPAA entity offices only require notification or a log that your records have been sent.

Any health care provider (physician, doctor) who engages in any electronic transactions with others is considered under the law to be a HIPAA entity. The initial objective of the law was to stop and prevent the abuses that took place when patient health information entered the electronic world. However, under this new HIPAA law, thousands of workers and many government agencies could have virtually unrestricted access to your health care records! It is not possible to protect patient information once records have entered computer networks—no matter how many rules are in force to protect you.

Our office has chosen to be a "HIPAA-free" office. This means that we will NOT engage in any electronic transactions with others. Our office will not subject your information to the vulnerability and risks of the electronic world. It is currently the best "protected health information" option available for our patients.

Accordingly, we will be better able to serve your needs by concentrating on your health care problems and concerns instead of having to constantly respond to complex and ever changing HIPAA rules.

In summary, our office will not be participating in the HIPAA program by doing electronic transactions. All insurance claims will be filed on paper. Claims processing could thus be delayed, but your privacy is assured. You may choose to file your own claim (except for Medicare), which may result in faster payment and better reimbursement. Additionally, your records will NOT be disclosed nor released to anyone without your written consent (unless specifically required by law).

We will continue to honor your trust in us and to protect your health information. As a HIPAA free office, we can and will maintain the highest standards of excellence in privacy matters.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_