

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
Augusta Plastic Surgery Associates, P.C./Augusta Plastic Surgery Center, Inc.
569 Fury's Ferry Road, Martinez, GA 30907
706-724-5611

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.

Uses and Disclosures to Carry Out Treatment, Payment and Healthcare Operations:

Treatment - This facility may use or disclose your protected health information in consultation between healthcare providers relating to your treatment or for your referral to another healthcare provider for your treatment.

Payment - This facility may use or disclose your protected health information for billing, claims management, collection activities or obtaining payment.

Healthcare Operations - This facility may use or disclose your protected health information for reviewing the competence or qualifications of healthcare professionals or for conducting training programs in which students, trainees or practitioners participate. This facility may use or disclose your protected health information for accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities. This facility may use or disclose your protected health information to our business associates who participate in our healthcare operations. These disclosures will only be made after we have satisfactory assurances in the form of a Business Associates Agreement from the business associate. These assurances will include their agreement to comply with the HIPAA rules and the compliance of any subcontractor with which they do business.

Authorized Uses or Disclosures: The following uses or disclosures require a valid authorization as defined by the HIPAA standards:

Uses or Disclosures for Psychotherapy Notes - Not applicable to this facility.

Uses or Disclosures for Marketing Purposes - No disclosures for marketing purposes will be made unless you give us specific written consent.

Disclosures for a Sale of Protected Health Information - This facility will require an authorization for any disclosures that would constitute a sale of protected health information.

For any other use or disclosure you wish us to make, you can give us a written, valid authorization. Your authorization must have specific instructions for the use and disclosure you want us to make. You will have the right to revoke the authorization in writing at any time before the information is used or disclosed.

Uses or Disclosures Requiring an Opportunity for the Individual to Agree or Object: For disclosures to others involved with your healthcare or payment, we will inform you in advance and give you the opportunity to agree or object. These disclosures will be limited to the information necessary to help with your healthcare or payment. These disclosures will only be made if you do not object.

Uses and Disclosures for Which an Authorization or Opportunity to Agree or Object is Not Required: The following uses or disclosures do not require an authorization or the opportunity for you to agree or object:

Uses and Disclosures Required by Law - This facility may use or disclose protected health information to the extent required by law. The use or disclosure will comply with and be limited to the relevant requirements of such law.

Uses and Disclosures for Public Health Activities - This facility may use or disclose protected health information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability, including but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury and vital events such as birth or death.

Disclosures About Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence - This facility may disclose protected health information about an individual whom this facility reasonably believes to be a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Uses and Disclosures for Health Oversight Activities - This facility may disclose protected health information to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law including audits, civil, administrative or criminal investigations, inspections, licensure or disciplinary actions.

Disclosures for Judicial and Administrative Proceedings - This facility may, in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal, provide only the protected health information expressly authorized by such order or a subpoena.

Disclosures for Law Enforcement Purposes - This facility may disclose protected health information as required by law including laws that require the reporting of certain types of wounds or other physical injuries.

Uses and Disclosures About Decedents: This facility may disclose protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for the purpose of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death or other duties as authorized by law. We may disclose protected health information to a funeral director, as authorized by law, to carry out their duties. This disclosure will be made in reasonable anticipation of death.

Uses and Disclosures for Cadaveric Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation Purposes: This facility may use or disclose protected health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

Uses and Disclosures for Research Purposes: This facility may use or disclose protected health information for research when the research has been approved by an institutional review board or privacy board to protect your protected health information.

Uses and Disclosures to Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: This facility may, consistent with applicable law and standards of ethical conduct, use or disclose protected health information, in good faith, if we believe the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Uses and Disclosures for Specialized Government: This facility may use and disclose the protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities to assure the proper execution of the military mission if the appropriate military authority has published by notice in the Federal Register.

Disclosures for Workers' Compensation: This facility may disclose protected health information as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness without regard to fault.

Patient Rights Under HIPAA: The following information describes your rights under the HIPAA Standards. This facility requires that all requests for the various rights be made in writing and we will provide our decision on your request in writing. You should be aware that there may be some situations when there could be limitations placed on your rights. We are required to permit you to request these rights, but we are not required to agree to your request except as discussed in the Right of Restriction section.

Right of an Individual to Request a Restriction of Uses and Disclosures - This facility will permit an individual to request that we restrict uses or disclosures of protected health information about the individual to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations or to others involved in your care or in payment. We will consider these requests, but we are not required to agree to them except as discussed in the next section.

Under your right of restriction, you may restrict certain disclosures of protected health information to a health plan for payment or healthcare operation where payment in full is made out of pocket for a healthcare item or service.

Confidential Communication Requirements -This facility will permit an individual to request and will accommodate reasonable requests to receive communications of protected health information from our facility by alternative means or at an alternative location.

Access of Individuals to Protected Health Information - An individual has a right of access to inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about the individual in a designated record set except as prohibited by state or federal law or certain other exemption. Your access may be provided in electronic form if producible at your request or in another form or format. As permitted by state and federal law, we may charge you a reasonable cost based fee for a copy of your record. Questions about the fee should be addressed to our Privacy Officer listed at the end of this document.

Amendment of Protected Health Information - An individual has the right to ask to have this facility amend protected health information or a record about the individual in a designated record set for as long as the protected health information is maintained in the designated record set.

Accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information - An individual has a right to receive an accounting of disclosures of protected health information made by this facility in the past six years, but not before April 14, 2003. The accounting will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment or operations as well as authorized disclosures or disclosures made for which you had an opportunity to agree or object. You may receive one free accounting in a 12 month period. There will be a reasonable cost based fee for additional requests.

Right of Breach Notification - An individual has the right to and will receive a notification of any breach of their unsecured protected health information as defined by the Breach Notification Rule. We will fulfill our obligation to provide notice in accordance to HIPAA standards.

Copy of This Notice - You have a right to a copy of this notice. Even if you agreed to receive an electronic copy, you may request and receive a paper copy.

Our Duties: This facility is required by law to maintain the privacy of protected health information and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to protected health information. This facility is required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. This facility is required to notify you of any change in a privacy facility that is described in the notice to protected health information that we created or received prior to issuing a revised notice. We reserve the right to change the terms of our notice and to make the new notice provisions effective for all protected health information that we maintain.

Complaints: If at any time you feel we have violated your HIPAA rights, please contact our Privacy Officer, Trudy Paschal, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This facility will not retaliate against any individual for filing a complaint.

Contact: You have the right to file a complaint with our Privacy Officer, Trudy Paschal, at the address and phone number at the top of this notice, or with the Office of Civil Rights, US Department of Health and Human Services, 61 Forsyth St., SW, Suite 3B70, Atlanta, GA 30323.

I acknowledge by signing below that I have received the Notice of Privacy Practices and Notice of Individual Rights.

Patient or Patient's Personal Representative

Date

Chart#:

Christopher J. Ewart, M.D.

Michael S. Tarakji, M.D.

(Revised: 3/20/14)