

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

(The HIPAA Privacy Rule & 2026 Compliance Update)

Ming Acupuncture & Wellness LLC Effective Date: January 27, 2026

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.

I. OUR PLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION

Ming Acupuncture & Wellness (the "Practice") is committed to protecting medical information about you. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your Protected Health Information (PHI) and to provide you with this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices. "Protected health information" includes demographic information that relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental health, including reproductive health services.

II. SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

In accordance with the 2024 HIPAA Final Rule, we provide specific protections for "Reproductive Health Care," which includes infertility treatments (such as IVF support, acupuncture for fertility), pregnancy-related care, and contraception.

- **Purpose Prohibition:** We are strictly prohibited from using or disclosing your PHI to investigate, prosecute, or impose liability on any person for the act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating **lawful** reproductive health care.
- **Attestation Requirement:** For non-healthcare requests (e.g., from law enforcement), we must obtain a signed **Attestation** affirming the request is not for a prohibited purpose related to reproductive health.

III. HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PHI

We may use and disclose your PHI for the following purposes:

- **Treatment:** To provide, coordinate, or manage your healthcare.
- **Payment:** To obtain payment, such as determining eligibility for insurance benefits.
- **Healthcare Operations:** To support business activities like quality assessments or training.
- **Business Associates:** We share PHI with third-party associates (e.g., billing) who are contractually bound to protect your privacy.

IV. USES AND DISCLOSURES WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT

Subject to the **Reproductive Health Care** restrictions in Section II, we may disclose PHI without authorization as follows:

- **Required by Law:** When required by federal, state, or local law.
- **Public Health:** For activities such as controlling disease or injury.
- **Law Enforcement:** In response to a court order, warrant, or subpoena, provided that all legal prerequisites are met. **Crucially, any request involving reproductive health records MUST be accompanied by a signed and verified 2024 Attestation confirming the request is not for a prohibited investigation or legal proceeding.**

V. SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RECORDS

For PHI related to SUD treatment (protected under 42 CFR Part 2), the following applies:

- **Heightened Protections:** These records are subject to stricter confidentiality than other health records.
- **Legal Proceedings:** We will not use or disclose these SUD records in any civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings against you without your specific written consent or a court order.
- **Notice of Redisclosure:** Any health information (including SUD and reproductive health data) disclosed pursuant to your authorization may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by federal privacy rules.

VI. YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR PHI

- **Right to Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to access and receive a copy of your medical notes. Effective 2026, **we will provide access to or copies of your records within 15 calendar days** of receiving your written request.
- **Right to Request Restrictions:** You may ask us to restrict certain uses/disclosures of your PHI.
- **Right to Confidential Communications:** You may request that we contact you in a specific way or location.
- **Right to Amend:** You may request an amendment if you believe PHI is incorrect.

VII. COMPLAINTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Practice's Privacy Officer or the Secretary of Health and Human Services. We will not retaliate against you.

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