

## NOTICE OF ST. ANN'S HOME PRIVACY PRACTICES

**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.**

### **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

St. Ann's Home may use your health information, that is, information that constitutes protected health information as defined in the Privacy Rule of the Administrative Simplification provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, for purposes of providing you treatment, obtaining payment for your care and conducting health care operations. Your health information may be used or disclosed only after St. Ann's Home has obtained your written consent. St. Ann's Home has established a policy to guard against unnecessary disclosure of your health information.

### **THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AFTER YOU HAVE PROVIDED YOUR WRITTEN CONSENT:**

To Provide Treatment: St. Ann's Home may use your health information to provide care to you and disclose your health information to others who provide care to you, such as your attending physician and other health care professionals who are involved in your care. For example, physicians involved in your care will need information about your symptoms in order to prescribe appropriate medications.

To Obtain Payment: St. Ann's Home may include your health information in invoices to collect payment from third parties for the care you may receive from St. Ann's Home. For example, St. Ann's Home may be required by your health insurer to provide information regarding your health care status so that the insurer will reimburse you or St. Ann's Home.

To Conduct Health Care Operations: St. Ann's Home may use and disclose health information for its own operations in order to facilitate the function of St. Ann's Home and as necessary to provide quality care to all of the St. Ann's Home's residents. Health care operations include activities such as:

- Quality assessment and improvement activities.
- Activities designed to improve health or reduce health care costs.
- Protocol development, case management and care coordination.

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- Contacting health care providers and residents with information about treatment alternatives and other related functions that do not include treatment.
- Professional review and performance evaluation.
- Training programs including those in which students, trainees or practitioners in health care learn under supervision.
- Training of non-health care professionals.
- Accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.
- Review and auditing, including compliance reviews, medical reviews, legal services and compliance programs.
- Business planning and development including cost management and planning related analyses and formulary development.
- Business management and general administrative activities of St. Ann's Home.
- Fundraising for the benefit of St. Ann's Home and certain marketing activities.

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For example, St. Ann's Home may use your health information to evaluate its staff performance, combine your health information with other St. Ann's Home residents in evaluating how to more effectively serve all St. Ann's Home residents, disclose your health information to St. Ann's Home staff and contracted personnel for training purposes, use your health information to contact you or your family as part of general fundraising and community information mailings (unless you tell us you do not want to be contacted).

For the Facility Directory: St. Ann's Home may disclose certain information about you including your name, your general health status, your religious affiliation and where you are located in a facility directory while you are in St. Ann's Home. St. Ann's Home may disclose this information to people who ask for you by name. However, religious affiliation will only be disclosed to clergy. If you do not want St. Ann's Home to include your information in the directory, you must notify Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer at extension 41.

For Fundraising Activities: St. Ann's Home may use information about you including your name, address and telephone number to contact you or your family to raise money for St. Ann's Home. If you do not want St. Ann's Home to contact you or your family, you must notify Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer at extension 41 and indicate that you do not wish to be contacted.

For Treatment Alternatives: St. Ann's Home may use and disclose your health information to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternative that may of interest to you.

### **THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED WITHOUT YOUR WRITTEN CONSENT OR AUTHORIZATION:**

When Legally Required: St. Ann's Home will disclose your health information when it is required to do so by any Federal, State or local law.

When There Are Risks to Public Health: St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information for the following public activities and purposes:

- To prevent or control disease, injury or disability, report disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death and the conduct of public health surveillance, investigations and interventions.
- To report adverse events, product defects, to track products or enable product recalls, repairs and replacements and to conduct post-marketing surveillance and compliance with requirements for the Food and Drug Administration.
- To notify a person who has been exposed to a communicable disease or who may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease.
- To an employer about an individual who is a member of the workforce as legally required.

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To Report Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: St. Ann's Home is allowed to notify government authorities if St. Ann's Home believes a resident is the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. St. Ann's Home will make this disclosure only when specifically required or authorized by law or when the resident agrees to the disclosure.

To Conduct Health Oversight Activities: St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information to a health oversight agency for activities including audits, civil, administrative or criminal investigations, inspections, licensure or disciplinary action. St. Ann's Home, however, may not disclose your health information if you are the subject of an investigation and the investigation does not arise out of and is not directly related to your receipt of health care or public benefits.

In Connection With Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: As permitted or required by State law, St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal as expressly authorized by such order or in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process, but only when St. Ann's Home makes reasonable efforts to either notify you about the request or to obtain an order protecting your health information.

For Law Enforcement Purposes: As permitted or required by State law, St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official for certain law enforcement purposes, including, under certain limited circumstances, if you are a victim of a crime or in order to report a crime.

To Coroners and Medical Examiners: St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information to coroners and medical examiners for purposes of determining your cause of death or for other duties, as authorized by law.

To Funeral Directors: St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information to funeral directors consistent with applicable law and if necessary, to carry out their duties with respect to your funeral arrangements. If necessary to carry out their duties, St. Ann's Home may disclose your health information prior to and in reasonable anticipation, of your death.

For Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation: St. Ann's Home may use or disclose your health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking or transplantation of organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating the donation and transplantation.

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For Research Purposes: St. Ann's Home may, under very select circumstances, use your health information for research. Before St. Ann's Home discloses any of your health information for such purposes, the project will be subject to an extensive approval process. St. Ann's Home will almost always request your written authorization before granting access to your individually identifiable health information.

In the Event of a Serious Threat to Health or Safety: St. Ann's Home may, consistent with applicable law and ethical standards of conduct, disclose your health information if St. Ann's Home, in good faith, believes that such disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your health or safety or to the health and safety of the public.

For Specified Government Functions: In certain circumstances, the Federal regulations authorize St. Ann's Home to use or disclose your health information to facilitate specified government functions relating to the military and veterans, national security and intelligence activities, protective services for the President and others, medical suitability determinations and inmates and law enforcement custody.

For Worker's Compensations: St. Ann's Home may release your health information for worker's compensation or similar programs.

### **AUTHORIZATION TO USE OR DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION**

Other than is stated above, St. Ann's Home will not disclose your health information other than with your written authorization. If you or your representative authorizes St. Ann's Home to use or disclose your health information, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time.

### **YOUR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION**

You have the following rights regarding your health information that St. Ann's Home maintains:

Right to Request Restrictions: You may request restrictions on certain uses and disclosure of your health information. You have the right to request a limit on St. Ann's Home disclosure of your health information to someone who is involved in your care or the payment of your care. However, St. Ann's Home is not required to agree to your request. If you wish to make a request for restriction, please contact Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer at extension 41.

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Right to Receive Confidential Communications: You have the right to request that St. Ann's Home communicate with you in a certain way. For example, you may ask that St. Ann's Home only conduct communications pertaining to your health information with you privately with no other family members present. If you wish to receive confidential communications, please contact Sister Gabriel, Privacy Officer at extension 41. St. Ann's Home will not request that you provide any reasons for your request and will attempt to honor your reasonable requests for confidential communications.

Right to Inspect and Copy Your Health Information: You have the right to inspect and copy your health information, including billing records. A request to inspect and copy records containing your health information may be made to Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer at extension 41. If you request a copy of your health information, St. Ann's Home may charge a reasonable fee for copying and assembling costs associated with your request.

Right to Amend Your Health Information: You or your representative have the right to request that St. Ann's Home amend your records, if you believe your health information records are incorrect or incomplete. That request may be made as long as the information is maintained by St. Ann's Home. A request for an amendment of records must be made in writing to Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer. St. Ann's Home may deny the request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason for the amendment. The request also may be denied if your health information records were not created by St. Ann's Home, if the records you are requesting are not part of St. Ann's Home's records, if the health information you wish to amend is not part of the health information you or your representative are permitted to inspect and copy or if, in the opinion of St. Ann's Home, the records containing your health information are accurate and complete.

Right to an Accounting: You or your representative have the right to request an accounting of disclosures of your health information made by St. Ann's Home for any reason other than for treatment, payment or health operations. The request for an account must be made in writing to Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer. The request should specify the time period for the accounting starting on April 14, 2003. Accounting request may not be made for periods of time in excess of six (6) years. St. Ann's Home will provide the first account you request during any 12-month period without charge. Subsequent accounting request may be subject to a reasonable cost-based fee.

Right to a Paper Copy of this Notice: You or your representative have a right to a separate paper copy of this Notice at any time even if you or your representative have received this Notice previously. To obtain a separate paper copy, please contact Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer extension 41.

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### **DUTIES OF ST. ANN'S HOME**

St. Ann's Home is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide to you and your representative this Notice of its duties and privacy practices. St. Ann's Home is required to abide by the terms of this Notice as may be amended from time to time. St. Ann's Home reserves the right to change the terms of its Notice and to make the new Notice provisions effective for all health information that it maintains. If St. Ann's Home changes its Notice, St. Ann's Home will provide a copy of the revised Notice to you or your appointed representative. You or your representative has the right to express complaints to St. Ann's Home and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you or your representative believe that your privacy right have been violated. Any complaints to St. Ann's Home should be made in writing to Sister Gabriela, Privacy Officer. St. Ann's Home encourages you to express any concerns you have regarding the privacy of your information. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint.

### **CONTACT PERSON**

St Ann's Home has designated Sister Gabriela as its contact person for all issues regarding resident privacy and your rights under the Federal privacy standards. You may contact this person at 2161 Leonard St. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 453-7715 extension 41.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Notice is effective April 14, 2003.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE, PLEASE  
CONTACT SISTER GABRIELA, PRIVACY OFFICER AT EXTENSION 41.**