



## Patient Portal and HIPAA Privacy

### **Patient Portal: e Clinical Work (ECW)**

E Clinical Work provides the Patient Portal (the "Portal") which offers convenient and secure access to your personal health record and a method to communicate with staff. We will not activate your patient portal account unless you authorize us to do so. Our patient portal allows our patients to communicate more easily with us. The portal is a voluntary option and is free of charge to all patients.

The Patient Portal enables our patients to communicate with our doctors, nurses, and staff members easily, safely, and securely via the Internet. Participating patients are given secure User IDs and passwords, enabling them to access the Portal to view their lab results, request prescription refills, ask follow up questions, and view billing statements. Portal messages are monitored during normal business hours Monday through Friday, and it is not for urgent clinical matters. We also think it's important for you to protect privacy on your end, and we recommend that you protect your username and password to avoid misuse. We use appropriate technologies to protect your health information. We follow all security laws, including HIPAA and HITECH. **Please choose an email address that will not be subject to access by anyone you do not trust.**

### **Your health Information Privacy Rights**

Most of us feel that our health information is private and should be protected. That is why there is a federal law that sets rules for health care providers and health insurance companies about who can look at and receive our health information. This law, called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), gives you rights over your health information.

### **Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule**

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/summary/privacysummary.pdf>

The Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (Privacy Rule) establishes, for the first time, a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the Privacy Rule to implement the requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The Privacy Rule standards address the use and disclosure of individuals' health information—called protected health information by organizations subject to the Privacy Rule — called covered entities, as well as standards for individuals' privacy rights to understand and control how their health information is used. Within HHS, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has responsibility for implementing and enforcing the Privacy Rule with respect to voluntary compliance activities and civil money penalties. A major goal of the Privacy Rule is to assure that individuals' health information is properly protected while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and to protect the public's health and wellbeing. The Rule strikes a balance that permits important uses of information, while protecting the privacy of people who seek care and healing. Given that the health care marketplace is diverse, the Rule is designed to be flexible and comprehensive to cover the variety of uses and disclosures that need to be addressed. This is a summary of key elements of the Privacy Rule and not a complete or comprehensive guide to compliance. Entities regulated by the Rule are obligated to comply with all of its applicable requirements and should not rely on this summary as a source of legal information or advice. To make it easier for entities to review the complete requirements of the Rule, provisions of the Rule referenced in this summary are cited in notes at the end of this document.

To view the entire Rule, and for other additional helpful information about how it applies, see the OCR

website: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa> . In the event of a conflict between this summary and the Rule, the Rule governs. Links to the OCR Guidance Document are provided throughout this paper. Provisions of the Rule referenced in this summary are cited in endnotes at the end of this document. To review the entire Rule itself, and for other additional helpful information about how it applies, see the OCR website: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa>.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the document entitled Patient Portal and HIPAA Privacy. I also agree to the use of the Patient Portal (please notify staff if you decline):

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_