EAST MISSISSIPPI ENDOSCOPIC CENTER
NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
Effective Date 04/13/03

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.

East Mississippi Endoscopic Center uses health information about you for treatment, to obtain payment for treatment, for administrative purposes, and to evaluate the quality of care that you receive. Your health information is contained in a medical record that is the physical property of East Mississippi Endoscopic Center.

How East Mississippi Endoscopic Center May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

For Treatment: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use your health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. For example, information obtained by a health care provider, such as a physician, nurse or other person providing health services to you, will record information in your record that is related to your treatment. This information is necessary for health care providers to determine what treatment you should receive. Health care providers will also record information in your record that is related to your treatment. This information is necessary for health care providers to determine what treatment you should receive. Health care providers will also record actions taken by them in the course of your treatment and note how you respond to the actions.

For Payment: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use and disclose your health information to others for purposes of receiving payment for treatment and services that you receive. For example, a bill may be sent to you or a third-party payor, such as an insurance company or health plan. The information on the bill may contain information that identifies you, your diagnosis, and treatment or supplies used in the course of treatment.

For Health Care Operations: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use and disclose health information about you for operational purposes. For example, your health information may be disclosed to members of the medical staff, risk or quality improvement personnel, and others to:

- evaluate the performance of our staff
- assess the quality of care and outcomes in you cases and similar cases;
- determine how to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care we provide.

Appointments: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use your information to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and devices that may be of interest to the individual.

Fund Raising: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use your health information to contact you to raise funds for a charitable community health project.

Required By Law: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use and disclose information about you as required by law. For example, East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may disclose information for the following purposes:

- for judicial and administrative proceedings pursuant to legal authority;
- to report information related to victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence; and
- to assist law enforcement officials in their law enforcement duties;

Public Health: Your health information may be used or disclosed for public health activities such as assisting public health authorities to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability, or for other health oversight activities.

Decedents: Health Information may be disclosed to funeral directors or coroners to enable them to carry out their lawful duties.

Research: East Mississippi Endoscopic Center may use your health information for research purposes when an institutional review board or privacy board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information has approved the research.

Health and Safety: Your health information may be disclosed to avert a serious threat to the health and safety of you or any other person pursuant to applicable law.

Government Functions: Your health information may be used or disclosed for specialized government functions such as protection of public officials or reporting to various branches of the armed services.

Workers Compensation: Your health information may be used or disclosed in order to comply with laws and regulations related to Workers’ Compensation.

Other Uses: Other uses and disclosures will be made only with your written authorization and you may revoke the authorization except to the extent East Mississippi Endoscopic Center has taken in reliance on such.
Your Health Information Rights
You have the right to:
- request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information as provided by 45 CFR §164.522; however, East Mississippi Endoscopic Center is not required to agree to a requested restriction;
- obtain a paper copy of the notice of information practices upon request;
- inspect and obtain a copy of your health record as provided for in 45 CFR §164.524;
- amend your health record as provided in 45 CFR §164.526;
- request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations;
- revoke your authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that action has already been taken; and
- receive an accounting of the disclosures made of your health information as provided by 45 CFR §164.528.

Complaints
You may complain to East Mississippi Endoscopic Center and to the Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Obligations of East Mississippi Endoscopic Center
East Mississippi Endoscopic Center is required by law to:
- maintain the privacy of protected health information;
- provide you with this notice of its legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information;
- abide by the terms of this notice;
- notify you if we are unable to agree to a requested restriction on how your information is used or disclosed;
- accommodate reasonable requests you may make to communicate health information by alternative means or at alternative locations; and
- obtain your written authorization to use or disclose your health information for reasons other than those listed above and permitted under law.

East Mississippi Endoscopic Center reserves the right to change its information practices and to make the new provisions effective for all protected health information it maintains. Revised noticed will be made available to you by mail.

Contact Information
If you have any questions or complaints, please contact:
Crystal Boler, Privacy Officer
East Mississippi Endoscopic Center
1926 23rd Avenue
Meridian, MS 39301
601-485-1131