

ColumbiaDoctors is providing all of our patients with an updated copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. The privacy rights established under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) require that we provide our patients with a new copy of the Notice whenever it is updated. The new Notice informs our patients about our relationship with NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine.

1. Why am I receiving the Notice of Privacy Practices again?

ColumbiaDoctors has updated our Notice of Privacy Practices and we are required to provide you with the version whenever any changes are made.

2. Why was the Notice of Privacy Practices updated?

The Notice of Privacy Practices was updated to inform patients about our relationship with NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine. Although Columbia has had a longstanding relationship with these organizations, historically we provided our patients with individual Notices of Privacy Practices. The three institutions decided that we should make our relationship clear to our patients.

3. Is there anything different about the Notice of Privacy Practices?

The Notice of Privacy of Practices follows all of the requirements set forth in the HIPAA rule. That portion has not changed. However, the contact information for all three organizations, ColumbiaDoctors, NewYork-Presbyterian, and Weill Cornell Medicine, now appears in the Notice.

4. What if I refuse to sign the Acknowledgment Form?

The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires us to provide you with a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices. You are not required to sign the acknowledgement form. However, by signing the form, all of your other healthcare providers will know that you have already received the Notice.

5. Why does ColumbiaDoctors need to share my information with NewYork-Presbyterian or Weill Cornell Medicine?

Our goal is to provide the most coordinated care possible and sharing health information helps us to do that. For example, when one of our Columbia doctors' orders an x-ray or a blood test, these tests are done at NewYork-Presbyterian. NewYork-Presbyterian then shares the results from the tests with the doctor that ordered the test. In this way, we are able to provide more seamless care through sharing of information.

6. Who can I contact if I have questions?

Contact our Privacy Officer at HIPAA@columbia.edu or 212-305-7315.