



Notice of Privacy Practices

- A. *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.*
- B. *This notice describes the information privacy practices followed by our employees, staff and other office personnel.*
- C. *This notice applies to the information and records we have about your health, health status, and the health care and services you receive at this office. We are required by law to give you this notice. It will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you and describes your rights and our obligations regarding the use and disclosure of that information.*

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

1. For Treatment

We may use health information about you to provide you services. We may disclose information about you to treatment staff, office staff or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you and your services. For example, your occupational therapist may be treating your child for a developmental condition and may need to know you child has other developmental challenges pertaining speech. The Supervisor may discuss your child's case with the speech therapist to determine the most appropriate care for your child.

Personnel in our office may not share information with people who do not work in our office without written authorization from you.

2. For Payment

We may use and disclose health information about you so that the services you receive at this office may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about a service you received here so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the service. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval, or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment. (Payments are not applicable to Medi-Cal recipients).

3. For Service Operations

We may use and disclose health information about you in order to run the office and make sure that you and our clients receive quality care. For example, we may use your information to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may also use health information about all or many of our clients to help us decide what additional services we should offer, how we can become more efficient, or whether certain new treatments are effective. We may also tell you about or recommend possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you. We may tell you about additional services that may be of interest to you.

4. Scheduling and Other Routine Office Operations

We may use your information to contact you regarding scheduling. We may use your information to contact you for other routine office operations such as completing required paperwork.



5. Special Situations

We may use or disclose health information about you without your permission for the following purposes, subject to all applicable legal requirements and limitations:

6. To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety

We may use and disclose health information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

7. Required by Law

We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

8. Research

We may use and disclose health information about you for research projects that are subject to a special approval process. We will ask you for your permission if the researcher will have access to your name, address or other information that reveals who you are, or will be involved in your care at the office.

9. Public Health Risks

We may disclose health information about you for public health reasons in order to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; suspected abuse or neglect, non-accidental physical injuries.

10. Health Oversight Activities

We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for audits, investigations, inspections, or licensing purposes. These disclosures may be necessary for certain state and federal agencies to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

11. Lawsuits and Disputes

If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. Subject to all applicable legal requirements, we may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena.

12. Law Enforcement

We may release health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process, subject to all applicable legal requirements.

13. Information Not Personally Identifiable

We may use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify you.

14. Family and Friends

We may disclose health information about you to your family members or friends if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family or friends if we can infer from the circumstances, based on our professional judgment that you would not object. For example, we may assume



you agree to our disclosure of your personal health information to your relative when you bring your relative with you into the treatment room during treatment or while treatment is discussed.

15. Other Uses and Disclosures of Health Information

We will not use or disclose your health information for any purpose other than those identified in the previous sections without your specific, written *Authorization*. If you give us *Authorization* to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that *Authorization*, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your *Authorization*, we will no longer use or disclose information about you for the reasons covered by your written *Authorization*, but we cannot take back any uses or disclosures already made with your permission. If we have HIV or substance abuse information about you, we cannot release that information without a special signed, written authorization from you that complies with the law governing HIV or substance abuse records.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

You have the following rights regarding health information we maintain about you:

1. Right to Inspect and Copy

You have the right to inspect and copy your health information, such as medical and billing records, that we use to make decisions about your care. You must submit a written request to a Director in order to inspect and/or copy your health information. If you request a copy of the information in physical form, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other associated supplies. We may deny your request to inspect and/or copy in certain limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your health information, you may ask that the denial be reviewed. If such a review is required by law, we will select a licensed health care professional to review your request and our denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

2. Right to Amend

If you believe health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment as long as the information is kept by this office. We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- a) We did not create, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment.
- b) Is not part of the health information that we keep.
- c) You would not be permitted to inspect and copy.
- d) Is accurate and complete.

3. Right to Request Restrictions

You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the health information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for it, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not use or disclose information about additional treatments not being provided by this office.



aura
behavioral health

To request restrictions, you may complete and submit a *Request for Restricting Uses and Disclosures and Confidential Communications Form* Information to a Director.

We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

4. Right to Request Confidential Communications

You have the right to request that we communicate with you about service matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail. To request confidential communications, please do so in writing to a Director. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

5. Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice

You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive it electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy. To obtain such a copy, contact a Director.

Changes to This Notice

We reserve the right to change this notice, and to make the revised or changed notice effective for medical information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a summary of the current notice in the office with its effective date in the top right-hand corner. You are entitled to a copy of the notice currently in effect.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with our Chief Executive Officer in writing at: Manvel Ter-Pogosyan, Chief Executive Officer, manvel@aurabehavior.com, 916.800.2872, 1300 Ethan Way, Ste 200, Sacramento, CA 95825 or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.