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*Traditional Vision Care and Beyond*

Effective date of notice: May 21, 2012

#### **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

The Mind-Eye Connection  
1414 Techny Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
Phone: (847) 501-2020  
Fax: (847) 501-2021

**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.**

We respect our legal obligation to keep health information that identifies you private. We are obligated by law to give you notice of our privacy practices. This Notice describes how we protect your health information and what rights you have regarding it.

#### **TREATMENT, PAYMENT, AND HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS**

The most common reason we use or disclose your health care information is for treatment, payment or health care operations. We may use your health information inside our office for these purposes without any special permission. If we need to discuss your health information outside of our office for these reasons, we will ask you for special written permission.

##### **Treatment:**

Examples of how we use or disclose information for treatment purposes are: setting up an appointment for you; testing or examining your eyes; prescribing glasses, contact lenses, or eye medications and faxing them to be filled; showing you low vision aids, referring you to another doctor or clinic for eye care or low vision aids or services; or getting copies of your health care information from another professional that you may have seen before us.

##### **Payment:**

Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for payment purposes are: asking you about your health or vision care plans, or other sources of payment; preparing and sending bills or claims; and collecting unpaid amounts (either ourselves or through a collection agency or attorney).

##### **Health Care Operations:**

“Health care operations” mean those administrative and managerial functions that we have to do in order to run our office. Examples of how we use or disclose your health information for health care operations are: financial or billing audits; internal quality assurance; personnel decisions; participation in managed care plans; defense of legal matters; business planning; and outside storage of our records.

#### **USES AND DISCLOSURES FOR OTHER REASONS WITHOUT PERMISSION**

In some limited situations, the law allows and requires us to use or disclose you health information without your permission. Not all of these situations will apply to us; some may never come up at our office at all. Such uses or disclosures are:

- When a state or federal law mandates that certain health information be reported for a specific purpose;

- For public health purposes, such as contagious disease reporting, investigation, or surveillance; and notices to and for the Federal Food and Drug Administration regarding drugs or medical devices;
- Disclosures to governmental authorities about victims of suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- Uses and disclosures for health oversight activities, such as for the licensing of doctors; for audits by Medicare or Medicaid; or for investigation of possible violations of health care laws;
- For judicial and administrative proceedings, such as in response to subpoenas or orders of courts or administrative agencies;
- For law enforcement purposes, such as to provide information about someone who is or is suspected to be a victim of a crime; to provide information about a crime at our office; or to report a crime that happened somewhere else;
- To a medical examiner to identify a dead person or to determine the cause of death; or to funeral directors to aid in burial; or to organizations that handle organ or tissue donations;
- For health related research;
- To prevent a serious threat to health or safety;
- For specialized government functions, such as for the protection of the president or highest ranking government officials; for lawful national intelligence activities; for military purposes; or for the evaluation and health of members of the foreign service;
- For de-identified information;
- Relating to worker's compensation programs;
- Of a "limited data set" for research, public health, or health care operations;
- Incidental disclosures that are an unavoidable by-product of permitted uses or disclosures; for example disclosures to "business associates" who perform health care operations for us and who commit to respect the privacy of your health information;

Unless you object, we will also share relevant information with your family or friends who are bringing you to and from the office.

#### **APPOINTMENT REMINDERS**

We may call or write to remind you of scheduled appointments, or that it is time to make a routine appointment. We may also call or write to notify you of other treatment or services available at our office that might help you. Unless you tell us otherwise, we reserve the right to mail you an appointment reminder on a post card, and/or leave a reminder message on your home answering machine or with someone who answers your phone if you are not home.

#### **OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES**

We will not make any other uses or disclosures of your health information unless you sign a written "authorization form." The content of an "authorization form" is determined by federal law. Sometimes, we may initiate the authorization process if the use or disclosure is our idea. Sometimes, you may initiate the process if it's your idea for us to send your information to someone else. Typically, in this situation you will give us a properly completed authorization form, or you can use one of ours.

If we initiate the process and ask you to sign an authorization for, you do not have to sign it. If you do not sign the authorization, we cannot make the use or disclosure. If you do sign one, you may revoke it at anytime unless we have already acted in reliance upon it. Revocation must be in writing. Send them to the administrative department at [admin@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:admin@mindeyeconnection.net).

#### **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION**

The law gives you many rights regarding your health information. You can:

- Ask us to restrict our uses and disclosures for purposes of treatment (except emergency treatment), payment or health care operations. We do not have to agree to do this, but if we agree, we must honor the restrictions you want. To ask for a restriction, send a written request to Dr. Zelinsky.
- Ask us to communicate with you in a confidential way, such as by phoning you at work rather than at home, by mailing health information to a different address, or by using e-mail to your personal e-mail address. We will accommodate these requests if they are reasonable, and if you pay us for any extra cost. If you want to ask for confidential communications, send a written request to Patient Services at [patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net).

- Ask to see or to get photocopies of your health information. By law, there are a few limited situations in which we can refuse to permit access or copying. For the most part, however, you will be able to review or have a copy of your health information within 30 days of asking us (or 60 days if the information is stored off-site). You may have to pay for photocopies in advance. If we deny your request, we will send you a written explanation and instructions about how to get an impartial review of our denial if one is legally available. If you want to review or get photocopies of your health information, send a written request to Patient Services at [patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net).
- Ask us to amend your health information if you think that it is incorrect or incomplete. If we agree, we will amend the information generally within 60 days from when you ask for it. We will send you the corrected information to person who we know got the wrong information, and others that you specify. If we do not agree, you can write a statement of your position, and we will include it with your health information along with any rebuttal statement that we may write. Once your statement of position and/or our rebuttal is included in your health information, we will send it along whenever we make a permitted disclosure of your health information. If you want to ask us to amend your health information, send a written request, including your reasons for the amendment, to the Administrative Department at [admin@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:admin@mindeyeconnection.net).
- Get a list of the disclosure we have made of your health information within the past six years (or a shorter period if you want). By law, the list will not include: disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations; disclosures with your authorization; incidental disclosures; disclosures required by law; and some other limited disclosures. You are entitled to one such list per year without charge. If you want more frequent lists, you will have to pay for them in advance. We will usually respond to your request within 60 days of receiving it. If you want a list, send a written request to Patient Services at [patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net).
- Get additional paper copies of this Notice of Privacy Practices upon request. It does not matter whether you got one electronically or in paper form already. If you want additional paper copies, send a written request to the Administrative Department at [admin@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:admin@mindeyeconnection.net).

## **OUR NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

By law, we must abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices until we choose to change it. We reserve the right to change this notice at any time as allowed by law. If we change this Notice, the new privacy practices will apply to your health information that we already have as well as to such information that we may generate in the future. If we change our Notice of Privacy Practices, we will post the new notice in our office, have copies available in our office, and post it on our website.

## **COMPLAINTS**

If you think that we have not properly respected the privacy of your health information, you are free to complain to us or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. We will not retaliate against you if you make a complaint. If you want to complain to us, send a written complaint to Patient Services at [patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net](mailto:patientservices@mindeyeconnection.net). If you prefer, you can discuss your complaint in person or by phone.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you want more information about our privacy practices, call or visit The Mind-Eye Connection at the address or phone number shown at the beginning of this Notice.

**By signing below, I certify that I have been offered and reviewed The Mind-Eye Connection's Notice of Privacy Practices and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction in language that I can understand.**

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Patient's Name (printed)

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Signature of Responsible Party

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Date

Would you like a copy of this Privacy Notice?     Yes     No