



healthcare providers, such as specialists or laboratories, who assist in your treatment at the request of your dentist.

Our office may also use HIPAA-compliant artificial intelligence (AI) tools to support your care. These tools help review dental images (such as X-rays) and other health data to assist with diagnosis and treatment planning. AI is used to enhance, not replace, your provider's clinical judgment. All AI-assisted findings are reviewed and approved by a licensed dentist before being used in your treatment.

Payment: Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. This may include certain activities that your health insurance plan may undertake before it approves or pays for the health care services we recommend for you such as making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, reviewing services provided to you for medical necessity, and undertaking utilization review activities. For example, obtaining approval for procedures may require that your relevant protected health information be disclosed to the health plan to obtain approval for those services.

Healthcare Operations: We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of this office. These activities may include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities and staff training.

For example, we may disclose your protected health information to interns or preceptors that see patients at our office. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your doctor. Communications between you and the doctor or his assistants may be recorded to assist us in accurately capturing your responses. We may also call you by name in the reception area when your doctor is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment.

We will share your protected health information with third party "Business Associates" that perform various activities (e.g., billing, transcription services for the practice). Whenever an arrangement between our office and a Business Associate involves the use or disclosure of your protected health information, we will have a written agreement with that Business Associate that contains terms that will protect the privacy of your protected health information.

We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to provide you with information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. We may also use and disclose your protected health information for other internal marketing activities. For example, your name and address may be used to send you a newsletter about our practice and the services we offer. We may also send you information about products or services that we believe may be beneficial to you. You may request that these materials not be sent to you.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION THAT MAY BE MADE WITH YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION

Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information will be made only with your written authorization, unless otherwise permitted or required by law as described below.