Ling’s Golden Needle Acupuncture

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

**Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**

**This notice describes our ofﬁce’s policy for how medical information about you may be used and disclosed, how you can get access to this information, and how your privacy is being protected.**

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. Protecting your privacy and healthcare information is fundamental in the course of our relationship. In administering your health care, we gather and maintain information that may include non-public personal information:

• From your patient record, including diagnostic information, as well as the care and services you receive.

• From your medical history, treatment notes, all test results, and any letters, faxes, emails or telephone conversations to or from other health care practitioners.

• About your ﬁnancial transactions with us (billing transactions).

**Disclosure of Information**

In order to maintain the level of service that you expect from our ofﬁce, we may need to share limited information for treatment, payment and healthcare operations. For example:

• **Treatment:** We may disclose medical information about you to other health care practitioners who are involved in your care. We may also share medical information about you in order to coordinate different types of treatment or to assist you and your physician or other health care providers in providing appropriate care for you.

• **Payment:** A receipt or bill may be sent to you or a third party payer that includes information that identiﬁes you, as well as your diagnosis, medical information, procedures, herbs prescribed and supplies used.

• **Health Care Operations**: We are allowed to disclose your medical information if that is necessary for our ofﬁce to function efﬁciently, safely, and in accordance with the law.

Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you give us permission to use or disclose your medical information, you may cancel that permission in writing, at any time. Once we receive written notice that you are canceling permission we will no longer use or disclose medical information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization.

**Patient Rights**

Your health record is the physical property of Ling’s Golden Needle Acupuncture LLC, however you have the right to:

 • Inspect and request a copy of your health record.

 • Request communications of your health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

 • Request a restriction on certain uses and disclosures of your information. However, we are not required by law to agree to a requested restriction.

 • Request that we amend your health record as provided by law.

 • Obtain an accounting of certain disclosures of your health information as provided by law.

 • Obtain a paper copy of this notice of information practices upon request.

You may exercise your rights by providing us with a written request.

**Privacy Safeguards**

• Limited access to facilities where information is stored.

• Policies and procedures for handling information.

• Requirements for third parties to contractually comply with privacy laws.

• All medical ﬁles and records (including email, regular mail, telephone, and faxes sent) are kept on permanent ﬁle.

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We will not use or disclose your health information without your written authorization, except as described in this notice or as permitted by law.

We reserve the right to change our practices and to make the new provisions effective for all protected health information we maintain, including information created or received before the change.

**For More Information or to Report a Problem**

We value our relationship and respect your right to privacy. If you have questions regarding your privacy guidelines or would like additional information, please contact: Ling’s Golden Needle Acupuncture at 512-331-8000. If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may ﬁle a written complaint with Ling’s Golden Needle Acupuncture, LLC or with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation for ﬁling a complaint.