



Patient Financial Policy

What is HIPAA?

In response to growing concerns about keeping health information private, Congress passed the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The legislation includes a privacy rule that creates national standards to protect individuals' personal health information. Most health-care providers in the country were required to implement these standards by April 14, 2003.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, requires health care professionals to protect privacy and create standards for electronic transfers of health data. The office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services will enforce the regulations and impose penalties on institutions that do not make a good-faith effort on privacy and security.

HIPAA came about because of the public's concern about how health care information is used. HIPAA gives patients more control over their own health information. Willow Creek Physical Therapy is taking steps to provide you, our patient, with these patient rights, which include the right:

- To inspect and obtain a copy of your health information
- To request that Willow Creek Physical Therapy amend health information in your records.
- To receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made of your health information
- To request that we restrict the use of your health information.
- To request how and where we may contact you about medical matters.
- To receive a written notice of how we may use your health information.

HIPAA requires health care providers like Willow Creek Physical Therapy to follow certain rules to protect the privacy of patients' health information. For instance, Willow Creek Physical Therapy employees are not allowed to access information on patients unless they need the information to perform their jobs. Employees are informed how to protect patient information, whether that information is spoken, on paper, or kept in a computer.

If you have any questions or concerns about HIPAA or wish to report a privacy concern, please call 406- 961-3841.

I have read and understand the above information.

Please sign: _____ Date: _____