

# WILLAMETTE DENTAL NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED  
AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.  
THE PRIVACY OF YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.**

## **OUR LEGAL DUTY**

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information. We are also required to give you this Notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your protected health information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this Notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect November 6, 2020, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this Notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our Notice effective for all protected health information that we maintain, including protected health information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and make the new Notice available upon request.

You may request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this Notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice.

## **USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

We use and disclose protected health information about you for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. For example:

**Treatment:** We may use and disclose your protected health information to provide, manage and coordinate your dental coverage.

**Payment:** We may use and disclose your protected health information to conduct payment related activities, such as determinations of eligibility and coverage, billing, administration and coordination of benefit payments.

**Healthcare Operations:** We may use and disclose your protected health information in connection with our healthcare operations. Healthcare operations include, but are not limited to, establishment of premium rates; activities relating to the creation, renewal or replacement of a dental plan; performing quality assessment and improvement activities; licensing or accreditation activities; responding to and resolving complaints and appeals; plan communications; and facilitating your enrollment in and renewal of your dental plan and value-added services. We will not use or disclose any of your protected health information that contains genetic information for underwriting purposes.

**To You, Your Personal Representatives and Plan Sponsor:** We must disclose your protected health information to you, as described in the Member Rights section of this Notice, and to a parent of a minor under the age of consent or legal guardian as necessary to help with your healthcare or with payment. We may disclose your protected health information to the sponsor of your dental plan.

**Family and Friends:** We may disclose protected health information about you to your family members or friends if we obtain your verbal authorization to do so, or if we give you an opportunity to object and you do not object. We also may disclose protected health information to your family or friends if we can infer from the circumstances, based on our reasonable judgment, that you would not object, for example if your spouse is a covered member with you under your dental plan.

**Marketing Health-Related Services:** We may use or disclose your protected health information for marketing purposes with your written authorization.

**Required by Law:** We may use or disclose your protected health information when we are required to do so by federal, state or local law or legal process, for example, subpoena, court order, administrative order, warrant, or summons; and pursuant to workers' compensation laws.

**Abuse or Neglect:** We may disclose your protected health information to appropriate authorities if we reasonably believe that you are a possible victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence or the possible victim of other crimes. We may disclose your protected health information to the extent necessary to avert a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of others.

**Plan Sponsors:** If your coverage is through an employer sponsored dental plan, we may disclose certain protected health information to the plan sponsor or its authorized representative(s) to perform plan administration functions.

**Governmental Officials and Law Enforcement:** We may disclose to authorized governmental officials protected health information required for lawful investigation; military authorities, the protected health information of Armed Forces personnel; and a correctional institution or law enforcement officials having lawful custody of protected health information of an inmate or patient under certain circumstances.

**Authorization:** Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information will be made only with your, or your Personal Representative's, written authorization. You may revoke such authorization at any time by written request, but we cannot take back any uses or disclosures already made with your permission.

## **MEMBER RIGHTS**

**Access:** You have the right to look at or get copies of your protected health information, with limited exceptions. You must request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this Notice. We will charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for expenses such as copies, postage and staff time. If you request an alternative format that we can practicably provide, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your protected health information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your protected health information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this Notice for a full explanation of our fees.

**Disclosure Accounting:** You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your protected health information for purposes, other than treatment, payment, healthcare operations and certain other activities, for the last 6 years, but not before November 6, 2014. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests.

**Restriction:** You have the right to request in writing that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your protected health information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

**Alternative Communication:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your protected health information by alternative means or to alternative locations. You must make your request in writing. Your request must specify the alternative means or location, and provide satisfactory explanation how account information will be handled under the alternative means or location you request.

**Amendment:** You have the right to request that we amend your protected health information. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request under certain circumstances.

**Breach Notification:** You have the right to receive notice if the security of your unsecured protected health information is breached.

**Electronic Notice:** If you receive this Notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive a paper copy of this Notice upon request.

## **QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS**

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your protected health information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your protected health information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may submit a complaint to us using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

**We support your right to the privacy of your protected health information. You will not be penalized in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.**

Member Rights  
Information: Willamette Dental Member Services  
6950 NE Campus Way  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124  
(855) 433-6825, Option 2

Complaints: Willamette Dental Privacy Officer  
6950 NE Campus Way  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124  
(855) 433-6825

# Willamette Dental Corporate Privacy Statement

At Willamette Dental Management Corporation and its affiliated companies, Willamette Dental Group, P.C., Willamette Dental Insurance, Inc., Willamette Dental of Washington, Inc., and Willamette Dental of Idaho, Inc., (“Willamette Dental”, collectively) we value the trust subscribers and patients (“customer or customers”, collectively) have placed in us. That is why we welcome this opportunity to describe the steps we take to protect customer information. This Statement provides details about these policies and procedures.

- ❖ We do not sell customer information.
- ❖ We do not share customer information with outside persons or companies for unrelated purposes such as selling their products or services.
- ❖ We do not share customer health information provided as part of a dental record, insurance application or claim, with outside persons or companies, except for legally authorized purposes.
- ❖ We maintain security standards and procedures designed to protect customer information.
- ❖ We require outside persons or companies that validly need our customer information to protect the confidentiality and prohibit independent use of customer information.
- ❖ We afford prospective and former customers the same protections as existing customers with respect to the use of customer information.

## INFORMATION COLLECTION

The primary reason that we collect and maintain customer information is to serve and administer customer relationships. This information may be collected from a variety of sources, such as the following:

- ❖ Information provided to us on applications or forms, such as names, addresses, dates of birth, and phone, social security, insurance and account numbers; and
- ❖ Information resulting from dental treatment, and dental account transactions, obtained from within Willamette Dental and from non-affiliated companies we work with to administer our business, including such information as health history, dental records, payment history and credit history.

## HEALTH INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY

We will not disclose health information to anyone without authorization unless the law permits or requires us to do so. Our contractual relationships with health care providers, as well as state and federal laws require the providers to keep customer health information confidential. Willamette Dental, its health care providers and payers (including self-funded employers) require access to customers’ medical/dental information for a number of necessary reasons. These reasons include underwriting, claims payment, fraud prevention, case management, delivery of care, quality assessment, utilization review, compliance with state and federal requirements, data collection and reporting, accreditation, and statistical research. Customer authorization as well as federal and state laws permits these disclosures.

## **INFORMATION USE AND DISCLOSURE WITHIN WILLAMETTE DENTAL**

We use and share customer information within Willamette Dental to provide products, services and administer our business. The information we maintain about customer relationships helps us verify identity, provide insurance benefits and dental treatment, and administer claims. Within Willamette Dental, we share the customer information we collect with our affiliates as reasonably necessary, including to provide dental care, dental insurance, enrollment, eligibility, claims management, billing and accounting.

### **WITH OUTSIDE COMPANIES OR PARTIES**

We share information outside Willamette Dental only for necessary and appropriate business purposes. We require these non-affiliates to keep customer information confidential. We may disclose customer information to the following types of outside companies or parties:

- ❖ Insurers, insurance administrators, benefit administrators, dentists and health care providers;
- ❖ Companies that perform services on our behalf, such as check printing, preparation of account statements, and product marketing;
- ❖ Government, credit, and collection agencies and other outside entities as permitted or required by federal and state law. These disclosures are made for specific limited purposes, such as to verify identity, credit and accounts, collect debts or respond to a court order or subpoena; and
- ❖ Others, such as technical consultants engaged to program our computer systems to help us provide, track, analyze and market our services and products.

### **INFORMATION CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION PRACTICES**

Willamette Dental is committed to preventing others from unauthorized access to customer information, and we maintain procedures and technology designed for this purpose. We take steps to protect the customer information we have, including the following:

- ❖ We update our technology in accordance with federal and state privacy regulations to improve the protection of customer information; and
- ❖ We have internal procedures that limit access to customer information, such as procedures requiring an employee to have a business need to access customer information. We maintain policies to provide security of workplaces and records.

### **INFORMATION INTEGRITY MEASURES**

At Willamette Dental, we work hard to ensure customer information is complete and accurate. We have procedures and processes for updating our customer information. We protect the integrity and survivability of customer information through measures such as maintaining backup copies of account data in the event of power outages or other business interruptions, using computer virus detection and eradication software on systems containing customer information, upgrading computer hardware and software, and employing other technical means to protect against unauthorized computer entry into systems containing customer information.

### **COMMUNICATION**

To contact Willamette Dental, write to: Willamette Dental Privacy Officer  
Willamette Dental Management Corporation  
6950 NE Campus Way  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124