

Australian Urology Associates Policy

Topic: Privacy.

Australian Urology Associates takes its obligation for your privacy under the Health Records Act 2001, and the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1998, and will take all reasonable steps in order to comply and protect the privacy of our patients.

Purpose/Outcome

The provision of quality health care is our principal concern. It requires a doctor-patient relationship of trust and confidentiality. Your doctor regards patient health information as confidential and will only collect this information with patient consent.

A patient's personal information is handled in accordance with this practice's privacy policy and consistent with the privacy legislation. Patients are entitled to know what personal information is held about them, how and under what circumstances they may have access to it, why it is held, its use, to whom and under what circumstances it may be disclosed, when consent is required for these purposes and how it is stored.

Every effort will be made to discuss these matters with patients at the time personal health information is collected from patients attending this practice. Because there will be occasions when it is not practicable to make patients aware of these matters at the time of collection this brochure is designed to outline how this practice endeavours to protect the privacy of patients' personal health information.

Collection Use and Disclosure of Your Information

Information about a patient's medical and family health history is needed to provide accurate medical diagnosis and appropriate treatment. We will be fair in the way we collect information about our patients. This information is generally collected from the patient, and otherwise with the patient's consent. However, from time to time we may receive patient information from others. When this occurs we will, wherever possible make sure the patient knows we have received this information.

Medical care requires full knowledge of patient health information by all members of a medical team. To ensure quality and continuity of patient care a patient's health information has to be shared with other health care providers from time to time. Some information about patients is also provided to Medicare, and private health funds if relevant, for billing and medical rebate purposes.

The doctors in this practice are members of various medical and professional bodies including medical defence organizations. There may be occasions when disclosure of patient information is required for medical defence purposes.

There are also circumstances where a medical practitioner is legally bound to disclose personal information. An example of this is the mandatory reporting of communicable diseases.

It is necessary for us to keep patient's information after their last attendance at this practice for as long as is required by law or is prudent having regard to administrative requirements.

Access

In accordance with our policy a patient has a right to access their information. They may ask to view the information or ask for a copy of a part or of the whole record. . Requests for personal

information must be made in writing. While not required to give reasons for their request, a patient may be asked to clarify the scope of their request

There are some circumstances in which access may be denied but in such an event the patient will be advised of the reason.

A charge may be payable where the practice incurs costs in providing access. This will depend on the nature of the access.

The material over which the doctor has copyright might be subject to conditions that prevent further copying or publication without the doctor's permission. Your records are the property of Australian Urology Associates and as such are not subject to any Freedom of Information Legislation.

If a patient finds that the information held on them is not accurate or complete, the patient may have that information amended accordingly.

Upon request a patient's health information held by this practice will be made available to another health service provider.

Parents/guardians and children

The right of children to privacy of their health information, based on the professional judgment of the doctor and consistent with the law, might at times restrict access to this information by parents or guardians.

Complaints

It is important to us that your expectations about the way in which we handle your information are the same as ours.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns, questions or complaints about any issues related to the privacy of your personal information with your doctor.

If you are still dissatisfied you can complain to the Federal Privacy Commissioner

Further information about an individual's privacy rights can be obtained from the Federal Privacy Commissioner's Office whose contact details are:

Level 8 Piccadilly Tower
133 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Privacy Hotline: - 1300363992

This policy has been prepared in accordance with the AMA guideline "Your privacy is our business"

*Policy reviewed 25th June 2009
Approved by Kay Talbot, Practice Nurse/Manager.*