



SPECIALIZING IN DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION
Garfield Samuels, M.D. Internal Medicine

PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. **PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.**

We understand that the privacy of your personal information is important to you. As your physician, we believe your right to privacy is a fundamental part of your treatment: as such, we want you to understand our privacy practices and procedures. Should you have any questions regarding these policies please do not hesitate to ask our office staff.

Information We Collect About You

We collect personal information about you and your family as part of our registration process, during the course of your care, and from the entities you utilize such as hospitals, laboratories, other physicians, imaging facilities, and your insurance company. This personal information includes items such as your name, address, telephone number, birth date, social security number, employer, health history, insurance policy and coverage information and any information you provide via our website. During the course of your treatment we will collect health information regarding diagnosis, treatment plans, progress and any test results or films.

How Your Information Is Used

The personal and health information gathered may be used and disclosed with your general consent for purposes of treatment, payment, or routine healthcare operations. This means we may send your information to other physicians or facilities involved in your treatment as well as to your insurance company or a collection agency to obtain payment. Any other uses of your information require a signed authorization by you, the patient or guardian. Garfield Samuels M.D. does not sell patient information to marketing or pharmaceutical companies. In certain cases of public health interest we may be required to disclose information to local, state or national health organizations or government agencies.

Safeguarding Your Personal and Health Information

We are required by law to **(1)** make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private **(2)** provide you with our privacy guidelines **(3)** follow the terms laid out in the privacy policy. As a means of protecting your privacy, we restrict access to your personal and health information to only those employees who require the information to complete their jobs and provide quality service to you. Garfield Samuels, M.D. maintains physical, health information. If you feel your privacy has been violated you have the right to file a complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services. The complaint in no way influences your course of treatment with Garfield Samuels, M.D.