

# **Polaris Rehabilitation & Care Center**

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

### **PURPOSE**

To ensure that Polaris Rehabilitation & Care Center ("the Facility") and any and all owners, directors, officers, clinical staff, employees, independent contractors, consultants, and others currently or potentially working for the Facility ("Associates") comply with applicable laws that grant residents or a resident's legal representative (collectively referred to herein as the "resident") the right to adequate notice of the uses and disclosures of the resident's protected health information ("PHI").

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of the Facility that individuals have the right to adequate notice of the uses and disclosures of their PHI, for as long as the PHI is maintained by the Facility.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### I. Notice of Use and Disclosure

##### A. Provision of Notice

- a. The Compliance and Ethics Officer shall approve a Notice of Privacy Practices (the "Notice") acceptable under State and Federal law to be provided to each resident: (i) prior to the time of first service delivery when the individual executes the Notice of Privacy Practices Acknowledgment Form; (ii) in an emergency treatment situation, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the emergency treatment situation, or (iii) upon request of a resident.

##### B. Web Site Notice

- a. If the Facility maintains a web site containing information about the Facility's customer service or benefits, it shall make the Notice available electronically through the web site.

##### C. Posting of Notice

- a. The Facility shall post the Notice in a clear and prominent location where residents will be able to read the Notice. The Facility shall make copies of the Notice available for individuals to take with them.

#### II. Acknowledgement

- A. Except in an emergency, the Facility shall make a good faith effort to obtain a written acknowledgement of receipt of the Notice. If no acknowledgement can be obtained, the Facility shall document

its efforts and the reasons why acknowledgement was not obtained. In emergency treatment situations, the acknowledgement shall be obtained from the individual as soon as reasonably practical.

### III. Revisions to Notice

- A. The Compliance and Ethics Officer must promptly revise and distribute to residents the Notice whenever there is a material change to the uses and disclosures of PHI, changes in residents' rights or the Facility's duties, or other privacy practices stated in the Notice. Thereafter, the revised Notice shall be utilized when providing the Notice to an individual.