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Privacy Statement for Jennifer Blenkinsop Occupational Therapy Practice

Please read this document carefully to understand how my practice may process and use your personal information. Should you have any questions please ask Jennifer Blenkinsop.

A reference to the patient, includes any person who may consent or contract on behalf of a patient, and includes the person responsible for payment of the patient's accounts.

(a) Confidentiality of Patients' Personal information

The privacy and security of the personal information of patients is important to us. I (and any employees of the practice) am committed to conducting my practice in accordance with the law in order to ensure that the confidentiality of your personal information is protected and maintained.

(b) What is Personal Information?

Personal information is defined in the Protection of Personal Information Act [POPIA]) and includes information such as the contact details, email addresses, age, gender, employment details, medical scheme membership and health information.

(c) Collection of Patients' Personal Information

Personal information will be collected as far as possible from the patient, but may also be collected from the hospital/facility admission form, other treating practitioners, the patient's next-of-kin and any other source from which the practice may lawfully collect information (e.g. the public domain / public records), as may be required in the circumstances.

(d) Processing of Patients' Personal Information

The practice will only process, which includes collect, record, collate, use, store and disseminate, the patient and any other relevant person's personal information in accordance with the law (e.g. the National Health Act, the Medical Schemes Act, the Health Professions Act and POPIA).

The personal information of the patient will be used as follows:

- (i) to provide him/her with appropriate care;
- (ii) to communicate with him/her in respect of his/her care, including reminding the patient of appointments and collecting payments for services rendered;
- (iii) for administrative purposes, including preparing invoices and collecting payment for services rendered;
- (iv) to refer the patient to other practitioners and for communication with these practitioner to ensure appropriate care;
- (v) to report to referring practitioners;
- (vi) record-keeping;
- (vii) for historical, statistical and research purposes;
- (viii) as proof;
- (ix) for enforcement of the practice's rights;
- (x) for any other lawful purpose related to the activities of a private occupational therapy practice; and/or
- (xi) as may be requested or authorised by the patient.

(e) Records of Patients' Personal Information

All personal information will be recorded in the patient's medical record, which may be held electronically, and which will be retained for such periods as may be prescribed by or permitted in terms of the law and for lawful purposes.

(f) Security

The practice has implemented mechanisms to ensure that adequate security measures are in place to ensure that personal information will be kept confidential and protected against destruction and unauthorised access. The practice will inform the patient and the Information Regulator, if any person has unlawfully obtained access to his/her personal information, subject to the provisions of the law.

(g) Sharing of Patients' Personal Information

The personal information collected before, during and after the provision of the medical services, including full details related to the diagnosis and treatment of the patient (in the form of ICD-10 codes or otherwise), will be shared, as may be appropriate, with other practitioners involved in the patient's treatment and care, and other persons who may lawfully obtain access to this information such as the patient's medical scheme, treating practitioners, the patient's next-of-kin, debt collectors, credit bureaus, regulatory bodies, other public bodies, persons and bodies performing peer review, law enforcement structures and purchasers of the practice. The practice will obtain the patient's consent for such disclosures, where necessary. Staff members as well as service providers and professional advisers of the practice will obtain access to the information, subject to confidentiality undertakings, and strictly on a need-to-know basis, to provide services and/or advice to the practice. Personal information will not be disclosed by the practice to any person other than those indicated on this form or without the patient's consent unless authorised in terms of the law.

If we must provide the patient's personal information to any third party in another country, we will obtain prior consent unless the practice may lawfully do so.

(h) Social Media

If you communicate with the practice, your therapist, or an employee of the practice using a social networking service such as Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter or similar social networking services, the relevant social networking service may collect your personal information for its own purposes. These services have their own privacy policies, which are independent of this Privacy Statement.

(i) Diagnosis / ICD-10 Codes

The practice must include codes on accounts that disclose the patient's diagnosis, known as ICD-10 codes. These codes are necessary for funding decisions and benefit allocations by funders such as the patient's medical scheme, the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Injuries and Diseases and the Road Accident Fund.

(j) Peer Review / Clinical Practice Audits

The practitioners may be subjected to peer review and the practice to clinical audits from time to time. Bodies performing such peer review or clinical audits may need to obtain access to patient information for this purpose. They will be required to sign confidentiality undertakings and only use the information for the specified purposes, before access is granted.

(k) Access to Patients' Personal Information

The patient may have access to his/her personal information held by the practice and may request corrections to it, if required, subject to the provisions of the law. Please enquire at reception and complete the prescribed form. The process is also described in the Public Access to Information act (PAIA).

(l) Withdrawal of Consent and Objection to Processing

Where consent is provided for the processing of personal information, it may be withdrawn at any time. Depending on the circumstances, this may impact on the patient's continued treatment unless the practice may process the information in terms of the law. If the circumstances make it reasonable and lawful to do so, the practice may terminate its relationship with you.

In certain instances, the patient may object to the processing of his/her personal information, if it is reasonable to do so, unless the practice may do so in terms of the law. The objection must be lodged on the prescribed form. Depending on the circumstances, this may impact on the patient's continued treatment unless the practice may process the information in terms of the law. If the circumstances make it reasonable and lawful to do so, the practice may terminate its relationship with you.

(m) Accurate and up-to-date Information

It is important that the patient provides accurate information to the practice about his/her/the patient's health status, medical history and other personal details such as a valid e-mail address and mobile number as well as medical scheme membership / other funder information to facilitate appropriate treatment and care of the patient, communication with the patient and payment of accounts. It is the patient's responsibility to inform the practice if any of the information has changed.

(n) Concerns about the Processing of Patients' Personal Information

Should the patient or any other person have any concern or question about the processing of their personal information by the practice, please raise this with any of the treating practitioners or the Information Officer of the practice. A complaint may also be lodged with the Information Regulator (+27 (0) 10 023 5207 / +27 (0) 82 746 4173 or complaints.IR@justice.gov.za).