# ADVANCED OCULAR PROSTHETICS INC. NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. If you have any questions about this Notice please contact Bridget Kinneer (412) 787-7277.

#### 1. <u>Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information</u>

Advanced Ocular Prosthetics Inc. (AOP) may use your protected health information for the purpose of providing health care services to you. Your protected health information may also be used and disclosed to pay your health care bills and to support the operation of this practice.

**Treatment:** We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with another provider.

**Payment:** Your protected health information will be used and disclosed, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services provided by us or by another provider. This may include certain activities that your health insurance plan may undertake before it approves or pays for the health care services we recommend for you such as: making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, reviewing services provided to you for medical necessity, and undertaking utilization review activities.

**Health Care Operations:** We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of this practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of students, licensing, fundraising activities, and conducting or arranging for other business activities. We will share your protected health information with third party "business associates" that perform various activities (for example, billing or transcription services) for our practice. Whenever an arrangement between our office and a business associate involves the use or disclosure of your protected health information, we will have a written contract that contains terms that will protect the privacy of your protected health information.

<u>Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures:</u> We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your authorization or providing you the opportunity to agree or object.

**Required By Law:** We may use or disclose your protected health information to the extent that the use or disclosure is required by law. The use or disclosure will be made in compliance with the law and will be limited to the relevant requirements of the law. You will be notified, if required by law, of any such uses or disclosures.

**Public Health:** We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities and purposes to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information

**Communicable Diseases:** We may disclose your protected health information, if authorized by law, to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading the disease or condition.

**Health Oversight:** We may disclose protected health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as audits, investigations, and inspections. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee the health care system, government benefit programs, other government regulatory programs and civil rights laws.

**Abuse or Neglect:** We may disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. In addition, we may disclose your protected health information if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to the governmental entity or agency authorized to receive such information. In this case, the disclosure will be made consistent with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

**Food and Drug Administration:** We may disclose your protected health information to a person or company required by the Food and Drug Administration for the purpose of quality, safety, or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products or activities including, to report adverse events, product defects or problems, biologic product deviations, to track products; to enable product recalls; to make repairs or replacements, or to conduct post marketing surveillance, as required.

**Legal Proceedings:** We may disclose protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding, in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal (to the extent such disclosure is expressly authorized), or in certain conditions in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement: We may also disclose protected health information, so long as applicable legal requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes. These law enforcement purposes include (1) legal processes and otherwise required by law, (2) limited information requests for identification and location purposes, (3) pertaining to victims of a crime, (4) suspicion that death has occurred as a result of criminal conduct, (5) in the event that a crime occurs on the premises of our practice, and (6) medical emergency (not on our practice's premises) and it is likely that a crime has occurred.

**Criminal Activity:** Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, we may disclose your protected health information, if we believe that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. We may also disclose protected health information if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

**Military Activity and National Security:** When the appropriate conditions apply, we may use or disclose protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel (1) for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities; (2) for the purpose of a determination by the Department of Veterans Affairs of your eligibility for benefits, or (3) to foreign military authority if you are a member of that foreign military services. We may also disclose your protected health information to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities, including for the provision of protective services to the President or others legally authorized.

**Workers' Compensation:** We may disclose your protected health information as authorized to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar legally-established programs.

**Inmates:** We may use or disclose your protected health information if you are an inmate of a correctional facility and we created or received your protected health information in the course of providing care to you.

Sale of the Practice: We may share your protected health information if we decide to sell the practice or merge with another practice.

## 2. <u>YOUR RIGHTS</u>

Following is a statement of your rights with respect to your protected health information and a brief description of how you may exercise these rights.

<u>You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information.</u> This means you may inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about you for so long as we maintain the protected health information. You may obtain your medical record that contains medical and billing records and any other records that the practice uses for making decisions about you. As permitted by federal or state law, we may charge you a reasonable copy fee for a copy of your records. Under federal law, however, you may not inspect or copy the following records: psychotherapy notes; information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding; and laboratory results that are subject to law that prohibits access to protected health information. Depending on the circumstances, a decision to deny access may be reviewable. In some circumstances, you may have a right to have this decision reviewed. Please contact our Bridget Kinneer (412) 787-7277 if you have questions about access to your medical record.

<u>You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information</u>. This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply. You may request a restriction by writing to AOP at 1111 Oakdale Road #5, Oakdale, PA 15071.

- You have the right to request to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location.
- You may have the right to amend your protected health information.
- You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your protected health information.
- You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us

## 3. <u>COMPLAINTS</u>

You may complain to us or to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. You may file a complaint with us by notifying Bridget Kinneer of your complaint. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint. You may contact Bridget Kinneer at (412) 787-7277 or by writing to AOP 1111 Oakdale Road #5, Oakdale, PA 15071 for further information about the complaint process.

## 3. <u>CHANGES</u>

We reserve the right to change the privacy practices that are described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. We also reserve the right to apply these changes retroactively to Protected Health Information received before the change in privacy practices.

This notice was published and becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

## MEDICARE DMEPOS SUPPLIER STANDARDS

Note: This is an abbreviated version of the supplier standards every Medicare DMEPOS supplier must meet in order to obtain and retain their billing privileges. These standards, in their entirety, are listed in 42 C.F.R. 424.57(c).

1. A supplier must be in compliance with all applicable Federal and State licensure and regulatory requirements.

2. A supplier must provide complete and accurate information on the DMEPOS supplier application. Any changes to this information must be reported to the National Supplier Clearinghouse within 30 days.

3. A supplier must have an authorized individual (whose signature is binding) sign the enrollment application for billing privileges. 4. A supplier must fill orders from its own inventory, or contract with other companies for the purchase of items necessary to fill orders. A supplier may not contract with any entity that is currently excluded from the Medicare program, any State health care programs, or any other Federal procurement or non-procurement programs.

5. A supplier must advise beneficiaries that they may rent or purchase inexpensive or routinely purchased durable medical equipment, and of the purchase option for capped rental equipment.

6. A supplier must notify beneficiaries of warranty coverage and honor all warranties under applicable State law, and repair or replace free of charge Medicare covered items that are under warranty.

7. A supplier must maintain a physical facility on an appropriate site and must maintain a visible sign with posted hours of operation. The location must be accessible to the public and staffed during posted hours of business. The location must be at least 200 square feet and contain space for storing records.

8. A supplier must permit CMS or its agents to conduct on-site inspections to ascertain the supplier's compliance with these standards.
9. A supplier must maintain a primary business telephone listed under the name of the business in a local directory or a toll free number available through directory assistance. The exclusive use of a beeper, answering machine, answering service or cell phone during posted business hours is prohibited.

10. A supplier must have comprehensive liability insurance in the amount of at least \$300,000 that covers both the supplier's place of business and all customers and employees of the supplier. If the supplier manufactures its own items, this insurance must also cover product liability and completed operations.

11. A supplier is prohibited from direct solicitation to Medicare beneficiaries. For complete details on this prohibition see 42 CFR § 424.57 (c) (11).

12. A supplier is responsible for delivery of and must instruct beneficiaries on the use of Medicare covered items, and maintain proof of delivery and beneficiary instruction.

13. A supplier must answer questions and respond to complaints of beneficiaries, and maintain documentation of such contacts.

14. A supplier must maintain and replace at no charge or repair cost either directly, or through a service contract with another

company, any Medicare-covered items it has rented to beneficiaries.

15. A supplier must accept returns of substandard (less than full quality for the particular item) or unsuitable items (inappropriate for the beneficiary at the time it was fitted and rented or sold) from beneficiaries.

16. A supplier must disclose these standards to each beneficiary it supplies a Medicare-covered item.

17. A supplier must disclose any person having ownership, financial, or control interest in the supplier.

18. A supplier must not convey or reassign a supplier number; i.e., the supplier may not sell or allow another entity to use its Medicare billing number.

19. A supplier must have a complaint resolution protocol established to address beneficiary complaints that relate to these standards. A record of these complaints must be maintained at the physical facility.

20. Complaint records must include: the name, address, telephone number and health insurance claim number of the beneficiary, a summary of the complaint, and any actions taken to resolve it.

21. A supplier must agree to furnish CMS any information required by the Medicare statute and regulations.

22. All suppliers must be accredited by a CMS-approved accreditation organization in order to receive and retain a supplier billing number. The accreditation must indicate the specific products and services, for which the supplier is accredited in order for the supplier to receive payment for those specific products and services (except for certain exempt pharmaceuticals).

23. All suppliers must notify their accreditation organization when a new DMEPOS location is opened.

24. All supplier locations, whether owned or subcontracted, must meet the DMEPOS quality standards and be separately accredited in order to bill Medicare.

25. All suppliers must disclose upon enrollment all products and services, including the addition of new product lines for which they are seeking accreditation.

26. A supplier must meet the surety bond requirements specified in 42 CFR § 424.57 (d).

27. A supplier must obtain oxygen from a state-licensed oxygen supplier.

28. A supplier must maintain ordering and referring documentation consistent with provisions found in 42 CFR § 424.516(f).

29. A supplier is prohibited from sharing a practice location with other Medicare providers and suppliers.

30. A supplier must remain open to the public for a minimum of 30 hours per week except physicians (as defined in section 1848(j) (3) of the Act) or physical and occupational therapists or a DMEPOS supplier working with custom made orthotics and prosthetics.

#### Warranty Policy

All prostheses made by Advanced Ocular Prosthetics Inc. are fully guaranteed under normal use for the defects in materials and workmanship for 6 months from date of delivery. Advanced Ocular Prosthetics Inc. will make as necessary

repairs and adjustment to a prosthesis, free of charge, during the warranty period. This guarantee does not apply to alterations or adjustment required due to surgery, changes in a patient's weight, physical condition, or any other physiological changes that may occur. Alterations and adjustments made by anyone other than Advanced Ocular Prosthetics Inc. will also invalidate the warranty. Additionally, this guarantee does not cover against loss, acts of God, war, weather or pets.

There can be no refunds or exchanges once the prosthesis has been delivered for reasons other than substandard quality, as determined by the patient and ocularist.

To take advantage of this guarantee, simply schedule a check up appointment within 6 months of the original date of service.