

# Hale Ho Aloha Nursing Home

Intermediate Care and Skilled Nursing Facility

2670 Pacific Heights Road

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

(808) 524-1955; Fax (808) 537-5418

**April 14, 2003**

**To: The Residents of Hale Ho Aloha Nursing Home (“Facility”)**

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY**

The privacy of your records is among our highest priorities and will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality. This Notice applies to all information and records related to your care that we have received or created. It extends to information received or created by our associates, volunteers, physicians and health care personnel.

This Notice summarizes the possible uses and disclosures of your protected health information. It also describes your rights and obligations regarding your protected health information.

In order for us to provide you with the best possible service and care, we need to receive and utilize protected health information from and about you. However, we want to emphasize that we are committed to maintaining the privacy of this information in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

We are required by applicable law to assure the following:

Maintain the privacy of your protected health information;

Provide to you this detailed Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices relating to your protected health information; and

Adhere to the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and make the new Notice provisions effective for all protected health information that the facility maintains.

## **PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

While receiving care from this Facility, information regarding your healthcare history, treatment, and payment for your health care may be originated and/or received by us. State and federal law protect information that can be used to identify you and which relates to your health care or your payment for health care. This is your protected health information.

## **COLLECTING INFORMATION**

We compile protected information about you to assist us in providing the best service, assistance and care, provide billing services and to fulfill legal and regulatory requirements. The type of information the Facility may receive from you varies according to the assistance and care that you may need.

If we have reason to believe that an item of your protected health information may be materially inaccurate, we will make a reasonable effort to re-verify its accuracy and correct any error as appropriate.

## **SECURITY STANDARDS**

We continue to review new technology to evaluate its ability to provide additional protection for your protected health information. We are taking reasonable efforts to maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with applicable state and federal standards to guard your protected health information.

## **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION FOR TREATMENT, PAYMENT AND FACILITY OPERATIONS**

We have described the uses and disclosures below and provide examples of the types of uses and disclosures we may make in each of these categories.

For Treatment: We will use and disclose your protected health information in providing you with treatment and services. We may disclose your protected health information to Facility and non-Facility personnel who also may be involved in your care, including, but not limited to, physicians, nurses, nurse aides, and physical therapists. Our workforce has access to such information on a need-to-know basis. For example, a nurse caring for you will report any change in your condition to your physician. Your physician may need to know the medications you are taking before prescribing additional medications. It may be necessary for the physician to inform the nurses or staff of the medications you are taking so they can administer the medications and monitor any possible side effects. In addition, we may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services which may be of interest to you. We may also disclose protected health information to individuals who will be involved in your care after you leave the Facility. Anyone who has access to protected health information is required to protect it and keep it confidential.

For Payment: We may use and disclose your protected health information so that we can bill and receive payment for the treatment and services you receive at the Facility. Bills requesting payment will usually include information which identifies you, your diagnosis and any procedures performed or supplies used. For billing and payment purposes, we may disclose your protected health information to your legal representative, an insurance or managed care company, Medicare, Medicaid or any other applicable third-party payor. For example, we may contact your insurance plan to confirm your coverage or to request prior approval for a proposed treatment or service.

For Facility Operations: We may use and disclose your protected health information for Facility Operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to monitor the health status of residents, manage the Facility and monitor the quality of our care. For example, we may use protected health information to evaluate our Facility's services, including the performance of our associates. In addition, we may release your protected health information to another individual or covered entity for quality assessment and improvement activities or for review of or evaluation of health care professionals.

Facility Operations may also include the use of information for quality assurance, training, accreditation, medical review, auditing and business planning.

### **USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION FOR OTHER SPECIFIC PURPOSES**

Facility Directory: The Facility maintains a directory of resident names and their location within the Facility (room number). Our directory does not include health information about you. We may release information in our directory to people who ask for you by name. You are not obligated, however, to consent to the inclusion of your information in the Facility directory. You may restrict or prohibit these uses and disclosures by notifying the Facility in writing of your restriction or prohibition.

Legal Representatives Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care: Unless you object, we may disclose your protected health information to legal representatives who are involved in your care. Examples of such legal representatives are individuals with healthcare power of attorney documents and legal court-appointed guardians. You may restrict or prohibit these uses and disclosures by notifying the Facility in writing of your restriction or prohibition.

Resident Condition: Upon admission residents and/or legal representatives will be asked for the names of those family members or responsible and/or interested parties that the Facility may discuss the resident's condition with. This information will be for purposes of verbal updating of resident condition such as appetite, temperature, behavior, meal/activity schedules, and other pertinent medical information which does not include alcohol/drug abuse, mental health treatment and/or sexually transmitted diseases. Residents and/or legal representatives will be asked to provide written consent and list those individual persons having consent to receive this information.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or your incapacity, we will do what is consistent with your known preference (if any), and what we determine to be in your best interest. We will inform you of uses or disclosures of protected health information under such circumstances and give you an opportunity to object as soon as practicable.

Disaster Relief: We may disclose your protected health information to an organization assisting in a disaster relief effort.

As Required By Law: We will disclose your protected health information when required by law to do so.

Public Health: We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities.

These activities may include the following:

- reporting for preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability;

- reporting deaths;

- reporting abuse or neglect of a dependent adult;

- reporting reactions to medications or problems with products;

- notifying a person who may have been exposed to a communicable

- disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease or condition; or

- disclosing for certain purposes involving workplace illness or injuries.

Reporting Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: We may use or disclose protected health information to protective services or social service agencies or other similar government authorities, if we reasonably believe you have been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose your protected health information to a health oversight agency for oversight activities authorized by law. These may include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections and licensure actions, judicial/administrative proceedings to which you are not a party, or other legal proceedings. In most cases, the oversight activity will be for the purpose of overseeing the care rendered by the Facility or the Facility's compliance with certain laws and regulations. The Facility does not control or define what information is needed by the health oversight agencies.

Judicial and Administrative Proceedings: We may disclose your personal health information in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose information in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful legal process; efforts will be made to contact you regarding the request or to obtain an order or agreement protecting the information.

Law Enforcement: We may also release your protected health information to law enforcement officials for the following purposes:

To comply with a court order, warrant, subpoena/summons, or administrative request;

Identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person;

Regarding a crime victim, but only if the victim consents or the victim is unable to consent due to incapacity and the information is needed to determine if a crime has occurred, non-disclosure would significantly hinder the investigation, and disclosure is in the victim's best interest;

Regarding a decedent, to alert law enforcement that the individual's death was caused by suspected criminal conduct; or

For reporting suspected criminal activity.

Coroner, Healthcare Examiners, Funeral Homes: We may release your personal health information to a coroner, medical examiner, and funeral director. We may also release information to an organization involved in the donation of organs if you are an organ donor.

## **YOUR RIGHTS**

You have the following rights regarding your protected health information at the Facility:

The right to receive notice of our policies and procedures used to protect your protected health information;

The right to request that certain uses and disclosures of your protected health information be restricted;

The right to access to your protected health information;

The right to request that your protected health information be amended;

The right to obtain an accounting of certain disclosures by us of your protected health information for the past six years after April 13, 2003;

The right to revoke any prior authorizations for use or disclosure of protected health information, except to the extent that the Facility has acted on your Authorization; and

The right to request the method by which your protected health information is communicated.

## **OUR RIGHTS**

We have the right not to agree to your requested restrictions on the use or disclosure of your personal health information. If we do agree to accept your requested restrictions, we will comply with your request except as needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

We have the right to deny your request to inspect or receive copies of your protected health information in certain circumstances.

We have the right to deny your request for amendment of protected health information if it was not created by us, if it is not part of your personal health information maintained by us, if it is not part of the information to which you have a right of access, or if it is already accurate and complete, as determined by us.

## **AUTHORIZATION**

Uses and disclosures of your protected health information not allowed by law under our Notice of Privacy Practices will only be made with your authorization. You can revoke the Authorization as described in your written Authorization. If you revoke your Authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your protected health information for the purposes covered by the Authorization, except where we have already relied on the Authorization.

## **COMPLAINTS**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated you may file a written complaint with our General Manager, who is the Facility's Privacy Official, who will review and respond to your complaint in a timely manner.

You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

## **CHANGE TO THIS NOTICE**

We will promptly revise and distribute this Notice whenever there is a material change to the permitted uses or disclosures, your individual rights, our legal duties, or other privacy practices stated in this Notice. We reserve the right to change this Notice and to make the revised or new Notice provisions effective for all protected health information already received and maintained by the Facility as

well as for all protected health information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice on the Activity Bulletin Board located next to the nursing station. In addition, we will provide a copy of the revised Notice to all Residents.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**If you have any questions about this Notice or would like further information concerning your privacy rights please contact the Privacy Officer:**

Alan J. Kawahara  
General Manager  
Hale Ho Aloha Nursing Home  
2670 Pacific Heights Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813