NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

BIOSPINE INSTITUTE – TAMPA

Effective Date: February 26, 2026

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

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact our Compliance Officer. Written requests should be addressed to:

BioSpine Institute – Tampa
Attention: Compliance Officer
5301 Avion Park Dr
Tampa, FL 33607

WHO WILL FOLLOW THIS NOTICE:

- BioSpine Institute – Tampa ("ASC")

OUR PLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION:

We understand that health information about you and your health care is personal. We are committed to protecting health information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive from us. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you. This notice also describes your rights to get access to the health information we keep about you and describes certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of your health information.

We are required by law to:

- make sure that health information that identifies you is kept private;
- give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices respect to health information about you; and
- follow the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practices that is currently in effect.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:

YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION:

1. **Right to Inspect and Copy:** You have the right to inspect and copy all or any part of your medical or health record, as provided by federal regulations. You may request and receive an electronic copy of your protected health information, or "PHI" if ASC maintains your PHI in an electronic health record.

   To inspect and copy your PHI, you must submit your request in writing to our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice. If you request a copy of your PHI we may charge a

reasonable, cost-based fee in accordance with state law for the costs associated with fulfilling your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy your PHI in certain limited circumstances.

2. **Right to Amend:** You have the right to request that we amend your PHI or a medical or health record about you if you feel that health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as we keep the information. To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing, submitted to our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice, and must be contained on one page of paper legibly handwritten or typed in at least 10 point font size. In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request for an amendment.

   We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

   - was not created by us, unless you provide a reasonable basis for us to believe that the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the requested amendment;
   - is not part of the health information kept by or for our Center;
   - is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
   - is accurate and complete.

   Any amendment we make to your PHI or other medical or health records about you will be disclosed to those with whom we disclose information.

3. **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures:** You have the right to request a list accounting for any disclosures of your PHI we have made, except for disclosures made for the purpose of treatment, payment, health care operations and certain other purposes if such disclosures were made through a paper record or other health record that is not electronic, as set forth in federal regulations. If you request an accounting of disclosures of your PHI, the accounting may include disclosures made for the purpose of treatment, payment and health care operations to the extent that disclosures are made through an electronic health record.

   To request an accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first list you request within a 12 month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred. We will, to the extent possible, mail you a list of disclosures in paper form within 60 days of your request, or notify you if we are unable to supply the list within that time period and by what date we can supply the list; such date will not be later than a total of 90 days from the date you made the request.

4. **Right to Request Restrictions:** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the use and disclosure of your PHI. You also have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the disclosure of your PHI to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, such as a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we restrict a specified nurse from use of your PHI or that we not disclose information to your spouse about a surgery you had.

We are not required to agree to your request for restrictions, except if you pay for a service entirely out-of-pocket. If you pay for a service entirely out-of-pocket, you may request that information regarding the service be withheld and not provided to a third party payor for purposes of payment or health care operations. We are obligated by law to abide by such restriction.

To request a restriction on the use and disclosure of your PHI, you must make your request in writing to our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice. In your request, you must tell us what information you want to limit and to whom you want the limitations to apply; for example, use of any PHI by a specified nurse, or disclosure of specified surgery to your spouse. We will notify you of our decision regarding the requested restriction. If we do agree to your requested restriction, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

5. **Right to Receive Confidential Communications:** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your health information in a certain way or have such communications addressed to a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at work or by mail to a post office box.

   To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

6. **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice:** You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice at any time upon request. At the time of first service rendered, we are required to provide you with a paper copy of this notice. To obtain a copy of this notice at any other time, please request it from our Administrator at the address listed on the first page of this notice.

7. **Right to Revoke Authorization:** If you execute any authorization(s) for the use and disclosure of your PHI, you have the right to revoke such authorization(s), except to the extent that action has already been taken in reliance on such authorization.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

The following categories describe different ways that we use and disclose your PHI without your authorization. For each category of such uses or disclosures we will explain what we mean and try to give some examples. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed.

1. **For Treatment:** We may use your PHI to provide you with health care treatment of services. We may disclose your PHI to provide you with health care treatment or services. We may disclose your PHI to doctors, nurses, technicians, health students, or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you. They may work at our surgery center, at the hospital if you are hospitalized under our supervision, or at a doctor's office, lab, pharmacy, or other health care provider to whom we may refer you for consultation, to take x-rays, to perform lab tests, to have prescriptions filled, or for other treatment purposes. For example, a doctor treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. In addition, the doctor may need to tell the dietitian at the hospital if you have diabetes so that we can arrange for appropriate meals. We may also your PHI to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.

2. **For Payment:** We may use and disclose your PHI so that the treatment and services you receive from us may be billed to and payment collected from you, an insurance company, or a third party. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about your visit to our surgery center so your health plan will pay us or reimburse you for the visit. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.

3. **For Health Care Operations:** We may use and disclose your PHI for operations of our surgery center. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our surgery center and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use health information to review our treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of our staff in caring for you. We may also combine health information about many patients to decide what additional services we should offer, what services are not needed, whether certain new treatments are effective, or to compare how we are doing with others and to see where we can make improvements. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of health information so others may use it to study health care delivery without learning who our specific patients are.

4. **For Research:** We may disclose your PHI for the purpose of research. We will only disclose your PHI for research purposes upon your express authorization and only if the research protocol has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your PHI.

5. **For Quality Improvement:** We may use your PHI as a tool for quality assurance and continuous quality improvement.

6. **As Required By Law:** We may disclose your PHI when required to do so by federal, state, or local law.

7. **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety:** We may use and disclose your PHI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Any disclosure, however, would only be to someone able to help prevent the threat.

8. **Military and Veterans:** If you are a member of the armed forces or separated/discharged from military services, we may release your PHI as required by military command authorities or the Department of Veterans Affairs as may be applicable. We may also release health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authorities.

9. **Workers' Compensation:** We may release your PHI as authorized by, and in compliance with, laws related to workers' compensation and similar programs established by law that provide benefits for work-related illnesses and injuries without regard to fault.

10. **Public Health Risks:** We may disclose your PHI for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:

    - to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability;
    - to report births and deaths;
    - to report child abuse or neglect;
    - to report reactions to medications or problems with products;

- to notify people of recalls of products they may be using;
- to notify person or organization required to receive information on FDA-regulated products;
- to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; and
- to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

11. **Health Oversight Activities:** We may disclose your PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

12. **Lawsuits and Disputes:** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose your PHI in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

13. **Law Enforcement:** We may disclose your PHI to law enforcement officials for law enforcement purposes including the following:

    - in reporting certain injuries, as required by law, gunshot wounds, burns, injuries to perpetrators of crime;
    - in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
    - to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person:
        - Name and address
        - Date of birth or place of birth;
        - Social security number;
        - Blood type or Rh factor;
        - Type of injury;
        - Date and time of treatment and/or death, if applicable; and
        - A description of distinguishing physical characteristics.
    - about the victim of a crime, if the victim agrees to disclose or under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement;
    - about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
    - about criminal conduct at our facility; and
    - in emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description, or location of the person who committed the crime.

14. **Organ and Tissue Donation:** We may disclose your PHI to organizations involved in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes or tissue, for the purpose of facilitating organ and tissue donation where applicable.

15. **Abuse, Neglect and Domestic Violence:** We may disclose your PHI to an appropriate governmental authority if we reasonably believe that you may be a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

16. **Coroners, Health Examiners and Funeral Directors:** We may disclose your PHI to a coroner or health examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also disclose your PHI to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

17. **National Security and Intelligence Activities:** We may disclose your PHI to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law, or for the purpose of providing protective services to the President or foreign heads of state.

18. **Protective Services for the President and Others:** We may disclose your PHI to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons or foreign heads of state or conduct special investigations.

19. **Inmates:** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose your PHI to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER PERMISSIBLE OR REQUIRED DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

1. **Business Associates:** Some activities of ASC are provided on our behalf through contracts with business associates. Examples of when we may use a business associate include coding and claims submission performed by a third party billing company, consulting and quality assurance activities provided by an outside consultant, billing and coding audits performed by an outside auditor, and other legal and consulting services provided in response to billing and reimbursement issues which may arise from time to time. When we enter into contracts to obtain these services, we may need to disclose your PHI to our business associate so that the associate may perform the job which we have requested. To protect your PHI, however, we require our business associate to appropriately safeguard your information.

2. **Notification:** We may use or disclose your PHI to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative, close personal friend, or other person responsible for your care of your location and general condition. ASC **will not disclose your PHI to your family members, personal representative or close personal friends as described in this paragraph if you object to such disclosure. Please notify the Administrator at the number listed on the first page of this notice if you object to such disclosures.**

3. **Communication with family members:** Health professionals, including those employed by or under contract with ASC may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or any other person you identify, health information relative to that person's involvement in your care or payment related to your care, unless you object to the disclosure.

   Federal law allows for the release of your PHI to appropriate health oversight agencies, public health authorities or attorneys, provided that a work force member or business associate believes in good faith that we have engaged in unlawful conduct or otherwise violated professional or clinical standards and are potentially endangering one or more patients, workers or the public.

Any use or disclosure of your PHI that is not described in this notice will be made only with your written authorization.

WE MAY NOT USE OR DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION:

1. We must obtain an authorization from you to use or disclose psychotherapy notes unless it is for treatment, payment or health care operations or is required by law, permitted by health oversight activities, to a coroner or medical examiner, or to prevent a serious threat to health or safety.

2. We must obtain an authorization for any use or disclosure of your PHI for any marketing communications to you about a product or service that encourages you to use or purchase the product or service unless the communication is either (a) a face-to-face communication or; (b) a promotional gift of nominal value. However, we do not need to obtain an authorization from you to provide refill reminders, information regarding your course of treatment, case management or care coordination, to describe a health-related products or services that we provide, or to contact you in regard to treatment alternatives. If the marketing involves financial remuneration, we must notify you if such remuneration is involved.

3. We must obtain an authorization for any disclosure of your PHI which constitutes a sale of such PHI.

4. To the extent that we have your substance use disorder patient records, subject to 42 CFR part 2, we cannot use or share the information in those records in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative investigations or legal proceedings against you without (1) your written consent or (2) a court order and a subpoena issued after notice to you and an opportunity to be heard is provided to you in compliance with 42 CFR part 2.

Information disclosed pursuant to HIPAA may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and no longer protected by law.

ASC's RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI, to provide you with this notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI we maintain and collect, and notify you if we discover a breach of any of your PHI that is not secured in accordance with federal guidelines.

2. We are required by law to abide by the terms of this notice as it is currently in effect.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE:

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices for all PHI that we collect or maintain and any terms of this notice. If our privacy practices materially change, we will revise this notice and provide you with a copy of the revised notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for PHI we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice in our facility. The notice will contain at the top of the first page, the effective date. In addition, each time you register for treatment or health care services, we will offer you a copy of the current notice in effect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A COMPLAINT:

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. To file a complaint with us, contact our Administrator. All complaints must be submitted in writing. **There will be no retaliation against you for filing a complaint.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, or if you wish to file a complaint with us regarding our use and disclosure of your PHI, you may contact our Compliance Officer.

OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION:

Other uses and disclosures of your PHI not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose protected health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE:

We will request that you sign a separate form or notice acknowledging you have received a copy of this notice. If you choose, or are not able to sign, a staff member will sign their name, and date. This acknowledgement will be filed with your records.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

By signing this form, I acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices of ASC. The Notice of Privacy Practices provides information about how ASC may use and disclose my protected health information.

I acknowledge receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices of ASC.

_____ Date:_____
(Patient/Parent/Conservator/Guardian)

FOR ASC USE ONLY

Inability to Obtain Acknowledgement

To be completed only if no signature is obtained. If it is not possible to obtain the patient's acknowledgement, describe the good faith efforts made to obtain the patient's acknowledgement, and the reasons why the acknowledgement was not obtained:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of ASC representative:

_____

Date:_____

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

The Center provides free language assistance services and auxiliary aids and services to individuals with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities. Contact any staff member or call (813) 443-2108 if you need these services.

Spanish *Español*

El Centro proporciona servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística y ayudas y servicios auxiliares a personas con dominio limitado del inglés y personas con discapacidades. Comuníquese con cualquier miembro del personal o llame al número de teléfono indicado anteriormente si necesita estos servicios.

Haitian Creole *Kreyòl Ayisyen*

Sant lan bay sèvis asistans lang gratis ak èd ak sèvis oksilyè pou moun ki gen konesans limite nan lang angle ak moun ki andikape. Kontakte nenpòt manm pèsonèl oswa rele nimewo telefòn ki anwo a si ou bezwen sèvis sa yo.

Portuguese *Português*

O Centro fornece serviços gratuitos de assistência linguística e auxílios e serviços auxiliares a indivíduos com proficiência limitada em inglês e indivíduos com deficiências. Entre em contato com qualquer membro da equipe ou ligue para o número de telefone acima se precisar desses serviços.

French *Français*

Le Centre fournit des services d'assistance linguistique gratuits et des aides et services auxiliaires aux personnes ayant une maîtrise limitée de l'anglais et aux personnes handicapées. Contactez n'importe quel membre du personnel ou appelez le numéro de téléphone ci-dessus si vous avez besoin de ces services.

Chinese (Simplified) *中文（简体）*

中心为英语水平有限的人士和残疾人士提供免费语言协助服务及辅助工具和服务。如果您需要这些服务，请联系任何工作人员或拨打上方的电话号码。

Vietnamese *Tiếng Việt*

Trung tâm cung cấp dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí và các công cụ hỗ trợ và dịch vụ cho những người có trình độ tiếng Anh hạn chế và người khuyết tật. Liên hệ với bất kỳ nhân viên nào hoặc gọi số điện thoại ở trên nếu bạn cần những dịch vụ này.

Arabic *العربية*

يوفر المركز خدمات مساعدة لغوية مجانية ووسائل وخدمات مساعدة للأفراد الذين يعانون من إتقان محدود للغة الإنجليزية والأفراد ذوي الإعاقات. تواصل مع أي موظف أو اتصل برقم الهاتف أعلاه إذا كنت بحاجة إلى هذه الخدمات.

Tagalog *Tagalog*

Ang Sentro ay nagbibigay ng libreng mga serbisyo sa tulong sa wika at mga auxiliary na tulong at serbisyo sa mga indibidwal na may limitadong kahusayan sa Ingles at mga indibidwal na may mga kapansanan. Makipag-ugnayan sa anumang miyembro ng kawani o tumawag sa numero ng telepono sa itaas kung kailangan mo ang mga serbisyong ito.

Hindi *हिन्दी*

केंद्र सीमित अंग्रेजी दक्षता वाले व्यक्तियों और विकलांग व्यक्तियों को मुफ्त भाषा सहायता सेवाएं और सहायक साधन एवं सेवाएं प्रदान करता है। यदि आपको इन सेवाओं की आवश्यकता है तो किसी भी कर्मचारी से संपर्क करें या ऊपर दिए गए फोन नंबर पर कॉल करें।

Korean *한국어*

센터는 영어 능력이 제한된 개인과 장애가 있는 개인에게 무료 언어 지원 서비스와 보조 기구 및 서비스를 제공합니다. 이러한 서비스가 필요하시면 직원에게 문의하시거나 위의 전화번호로 전화하십시오.

Russian *Русский*

Центр предоставляет бесплатные услуги языковой помощи, а также вспомогательные средства и услуги лицам с ограниченным знанием английского языка и лицам с ограниченными возможностями. Обратитесь к любому сотруднику или позвоните по номеру телефона, указанному выше, если вам нужны эти услуги.

German *Deutsch*

Das Zentrum bietet Personen mit begrenzten Englischkenntnissen und Personen mit Behinderungen kostenlose Sprachassistenzleistungen sowie Hilfsmittel und Dienste an. Wenden Sie sich an einen Mitarbeiter oder rufen Sie die oben angegebene Telefonnummer an, wenn Sie diese Leistungen benötigen.

Italian *Italiano*

Il Centro fornisce servizi gratuiti di assistenza linguistica e ausili e servizi ausiliari a persone con conoscenza limitata dell'inglese e a persone con disabilità. Contatta qualsiasi membro del personale o chiama il numero di telefono indicato sopra se hai bisogno di questi servizi.

Polish *Polski*

Centrum zapewnia bezpłatne usługi pomocy językowej oraz pomoce i usługi pomocnicze dla osób ze słabą znajomością języka angielskiego i osób niepełnosprawnych. Skontaktuj się z dowolnym pracownikiem lub zadzwoń pod numer telefonu podany powyżej, jeśli potrzebujesz tych usług.

Gujarati *ગુજરાતી*

સેન્ટર મર્યાદિત અંગ્રેજી પ્રવીણતા ધરાવતા વ્યક્તિઓ અને વિકલાંગ વ્યક્તિઓને મફત ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ અને સહાયક સહાય અને સેવાઓ પ્રદાન કરે છે. જો તમને આ સેવાઓની જરૂર હોય તો કોઈ પણ સ્ટાફ સભ્યનો સંપર્ક કરો અથવા ઉપર આપેલ ફોન નંબર પર કૉલ કરો.