

Alpine Valley Wellness Center, PC
430 Elva Way. East Wenatchee, WA 98802 (509) 886-9355

Note: The information you provide is confidential and will be secured via HIPAA regulations. Please complete this questionnaire as thoroughly as possible. Thank you.

Name: _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____ Sex: M F

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Social Security # _____ Family Physician _____

Known allergies (medications, foods, etc): _____

Current Health Condition

Please list your top 3 health concerns, beginning with the *most important* to address today.

Date of Onset

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Has anything recently changed (either better or worse) ? _____

General information

1. Have you seen a Naturopathic Physician before? Yes No In the past ? Yes No
If yes, whom? _____ For what condition(s)? _____
2. Are you currently seeing a Medical Doctor? Yes No If so, who? _____
For what condition? _____
3. Have you seen a Doctor of Chiropractic before? Yes No In the past? Yes No
If yes, whom? _____ For what condition(s)? _____
4. Are you currently seeing any other health care professional? (ie. Acupuncturist, Therapist, etc.)? Yes No If yes, whom? _____
5. Please list the three most significant/stressful events in your life ,beginning with the most recent. (eg. Marriage, divorce, birth of child, career changes, moving, losses, etc)

6. List ANY Mental Health issues: _____

7. What is your occupation? _____ Do you like your work? Yes No
8. Are you currently in a relationship? Yes No If so are you: Married Dating Significant Other
Are you happy/satisfied with your current relationship status? Yes Mostly Yes No Mostly No
9. How did you hear about our Clinic? _____

Personal Health Habits

Height _____ **Current Weight** _____ lbs **Weight 1 year ago** _____ lbs **Maximum weight** _____ lbs **Year?** _____

Smoker: Yes No **Smoked for** _____ years **Amount per day** _____ **Year stopped** _____

Alcohol: Yes No **Type** _____ **Frequency** _____

Recreational Drugs: Yes No **Type** _____ **Frequency** _____

Coffee: Yes No **Cups per day** _____ **Sodas:** Yes No **Type** _____ **Cans per day** _____

Regular exercise: Yes No **Describe:** _____

Sleep: **Hours per night** _____ **Is your sleep restful?** Yes No **Do you take sleeping aids?** Yes No

Please briefly describe the usual items you would have for each meal:

Morning: _____

Afternoon: _____

Evening: _____

Snacks: _____

Medications/Hospitalization

Please list all your prescription **medications** (including sleeping pills, birth control pills), non-prescription medications (such as aspirin, Tylenol, antacids, laxatives, antihistamines), vitamins, herbs, that you take on a regular basis.

Please list any known **allergies** you have to drugs, food, or other substances (such as pollen, mold, chemicals, etc.).

Please list any **hospitalizations, surgery, serious injuries** with the date and type illness/operation/injury.

Your Medical History

Name: _____

Please circle or fill in where indicated if you have ever had any of the following :

Alcohol abuse	Fatigue, chronic	Panic Attacks
Allergies _____	Fibromyalgia	Parasites _____
Anemia	Female gynecological problems	Prostate problems
Arthritis	Frequent antibiotic use	Rheumatic fever
Asthma	Gall bladder/ Liver problems	Sexual abuse
Back pain	Gastrointestinal problems _____	Sexually transmitted diseases (herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhea, etc.) _____
Bladder/urinary problems	Gum/teeth problems	Sinusitis
Cancer _____	Hair loss	Skin problems/rashes _____
Chest pain	Heart problems _____	Stroke
Colitis/irritable bowel	Hemorrhoids	Tuberculosis
Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Type I <input type="checkbox"/> Type II	Hepatitis <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Thyroid problems
Ear or hearing problems	Hypoglycemia	Ulcers
Eating Disorders _____	Impotence/sexual problems	Other _____
Edema/water weight	Kidney/ Urinary problems	
Epilepsy	Mental illness _____	
Eye problems/cataracts/ glaucoma	Mononucleosis / Epstein Barr virus	

Family Medical History

For each person below, complete those that are appropriate. Place a **check** in the appropriate column for relevant diseases

	Father	Mother	Brother (s)	Sister (s)	Children	Grandparents
Age if Living:						
Age at Death:						
Cause of death						
Cancer						
Diabetes						
Depression						
Heart Disease						
High blood pressure						
Stroke						
Epilepsy						
Mental illness						
Asthma						
Kidney Disease						
Glaucoma						
Tuberculosis						
Endocrine Disease (thy						
Multiple Sclerosis						
Neurological Diseases						
Autoimmune Disease						
OTHER (please list)						

Health Goals/Expectations

What are your goals in choosing to come to our clinic?

What expectations do you have concerning working with our doctors?

What expectations do you have of me personally?

What is your present level of commitment to address any underlying causes of you signs and symptoms that relate to your lifestyle? Rate from 10% to 100%: _____

What behaviors or lifestyle habits do you engage in regularly to support your health? (please list)

What behavior or lifestyle habits do you currently engage in conflict or limit your health goals? (please list)

What potential obstacles do you foresee in addressing the lifestyle factors which are undermining your health and in adhering to the therapeutic protocols which we will be sharing with you?

Who do you know that will sincerely support you consistently with the beneficial lifestyle changes you will be making?

What do you love to do?

Therapeutic Options

Natural therapies that I am most interested in receiving or that work well for me (please list):

If necessary to reach my health goals I am able and willing to:

Take nutraceuticals Exercise Optimize my diet Take herbal extracts (Potent botanical remedies that contain a small amount of alcohol) Change my daily lifestyle habits Optimize my sleep Address underlying psycho-emotional issues

Any special needs that affect our therapeutic options? e.g no alcohol in remedies, difficulty swallowing, taste or texture sensitivity, sensitive constitution that reacts strongly to medications or supplements



Finance/Insurance Form

PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE ALL ENTRIES				
Patient Name (Last, First, MI)	Date of Birth	Age	Marital Status	Today's Date
Address (Street, City, Zip)	Home phone:			
	Work phone:			
	Cell phone:			
Social Security #	Who is financially responsible for this bill?			
Spouse/Parent Name (Last, First, MI)	Date of Birth	Home Phone.	Work phone	
Emergency contact	Relationship	Phone number		
Email address:				
INSURANCE				
Primary Subscriber Name	Primary Subscriber SS#	Primary Subscriber Date of Birth		

Note: Medicare does **not cover Naturopathic services at this time.*

I agree to make payments according to the policies of Alpine Valley Wellness Center (AVWC), including all payments due at the time of visit. I agree to allow AVWC to charge my credit card or utilize my deposit if I fail to follow the cancelation policy for my first visit.

By accepting services at AVWC, I am agreeing to pay for that service even if my insurance company denies payment. I understand that the restrictions imposed by my insurance company are constantly changing and that the staff of AVWC are not responsible to track these changes. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my insurance policy covers all treatments I am receiving. I agree to call my insurance company and verify benefits if I have any concerns. I understand that AVWC does collect co-payments at the time of my visit. I give permission for the release of information requested by my insurance company to assist in processing my insurance claims and assign directly to AVWC all appropriate payments from my insurance company for health care services rendered to me by AVWC.

Patient Name (Please Print)

Patient Signature

Date



OFFICE POLICIES

Welcome to the Alpine Valley Wellness Center (AVWC)! If you have any questions or comments about our policies, please feel free to share them with us. For more information, please see our website: www.alpinebewell.com

1. Waiting Room Etiquette: Chemical Sensitivity, Children, and Cell Phone use

Many of our patients are chemically-sensitive or are struggling with various kinds of allergies. For this reason, **please do not bring pets or wear perfumes, colognes, or other scented products to the clinic.** If your child is not coming to the clinic as a patient, please consider that all clinics have a variety of sick patients who your child may be exposed to. We ask that our patients turn off their cell phones prior to going into an exam room and that they step outside the waiting room if they are going to answer a call. This will help us to keep the clinic space relaxing, therapeutic, and enjoyable for all our patients.

2. Missed Appointments, Cancellations, Deposits

Because of the volume of patients wanting to see the doctors on any given day, it is challenging to get patients in and the clinic has a significant waiting list. Each missed appointment represents a lost opportunity to serve our patients, some of whom have urgent needs. For this reason, and because of the increasing number of missed appointments, we have initiated a cancellation policy.

For established patients, we require a minimum of 24 hours notice, received during our normal business hours, for canceled or rescheduled visits. Cancellations made with less than 24 hours notice will incur a \$60 fee for a missed half hour appointment, a \$75 fee for an hour missed appointment, and a \$15 fee for a missed blood draw. Your insurance company will not cover this charge – it will need to be paid out of pocket. Repeated instances of not appearing for scheduled visits may nullify our ability to continue offering medical care. Extenuating circumstances or emergencies are exceptions that will not be billed.

For new patients, a deposit or credit card number is necessary to secure an initial visit with our physicians. If you do not have a credit card, a deposit of \$60 via check or money order can be sent to our office. You will only be charged a \$60 fee if you cancel your appointment with less than 24 hours notice. Deposits will be returned and credit card numbers will be destroyed at the first visit.

3. Telephone Limitations

There are limitations to what any physician is able to accomplish without actually seeing you. The most important limitation is that, outside of a phone consultation, **we cannot diagnose and/or treat medical conditions over the telephone.** This constraint is imposed by state and federal government guidelines, insurance company policies, and the boundaries of medical ethics. Situations that are complex or require a good deal of discussion are best handled by an appointment. Also, we cannot discuss a condition over the phone if it is an illness for which you have not been previously evaluated. For these same reasons, we cannot prescribe supplements or medications over the telephone for someone who we have not seen previously as a patient, including family members who are not established patients of the clinic.

4. Phone Consultations

Telephone consultations are provided for established patients only under special circumstances determined by your doctor. There is a charge of **\$75 for each 30 minute segment**, which will need to be scheduled with your doctor. Your insurance company will not cover this expense — you will be responsible to pay this charge. Clarification of on-going therapy or any discussion with the doctor under five (5) minutes is not considered a phone consultation and will not be charged.

5. Emergency Contact and After Hours Services

For all critical, psychiatric, or life-threatening emergencies, please call 911 or proceed immediately to your local hospital. The clinic is not set up to do these kinds of emergency interventions.

After business hours, please limit calls to urgent matters only. The clinic physicians carry a pager for appropriate emergency contact with established clinic patients. Our pager number is always available by calling our office number, listed above. An emergency is defined as a health problem which you feel requires immediate attention. There is a charge of \$25 per page unless one of the doctors specifically asks you to page them. Your insurance company will not cover this expense — you will be

responsible for this charge. While telecommunication technology is generally quite stable, there are a number of reasons it can fail. For this reason, it is **very important** that you proceed to an Emergency Room in a serious situation if you do not hear back from your physician after a short period of time.

6. Credit Cards

Please note that, in order to keep costs down, we only accept credit cards in person. The reason for this is that the credit card companies charge us an even higher fee if we have to key in your credit card number versus swiping it on our terminal. If you find this as irritating as we do, you may want to consider letting your credit card company know.

7. Payments and Non-Sufficient Funds (NSF)

For those without insurance coverage, complete payment is expected at the end of each office visit unless some other payment plan is created. Cash or personal checks are preferred. Items not covered by insurance, such as supplements, need to be paid at the time of the visit. Checks or credit card payments that are denied for lack of funds will incur a fee of \$20. Upon receipt of an NSF issue, we will contact you and arrange for payment to be made in cash within the current business week.

8. Non-medical services

Because of escalating labor and material costs, we reluctantly have begun charging for some non-medical services. Requests for medical records by other providers is a service we continue to provide for free. However, personal requests for medical records will incur a charge based on the number of pages requested. Special requests that are not reimbursed by your insurance company, such as letter writing, medical leave document processing by the doctors, health saving account letters, etc. will be billed at the regular rate of \$75/hour. Our ability to provide such services is limited and typically requires a minimum of 7 business days to process. Please check with the front desk for more information.

9. Dispensary Items

All dispensary items are “cash and carry.” That is, payment is due at the time they are picked up from the clinic. If you do not have the funds available at the time, we will be happy to hold them for you. Please be aware that we can no longer offer refunds on dispensary items that have been opened or are special orders: the only exception is that a partial refund may be given if it is determined by the doctor that there is a medical reason you cannot take a particular supplement. Unopened supplements may be returned for a full refund within four (4) weeks of purchase.

Prescriptions for tinctures or other items that require our attention during the business day typically require 24 to 48 hours to be filled. If you are refilling a tincture, please bring your old bottle to refill to avoid being charged the cost of a new bottle (first one is free) and to help us with our recycling efforts.

We can mail supplements to you. In addition to the retail price, there is a handling fee of \$5.00 if the price is under \$100 and \$7.50 if the price is over \$100 that covers processing time, delivery to the post office, and costs for possible lost shipments. Unfortunately, no refund can be made if the items fail to reach you. We do everything possible to avoid this, since it represents a loss for us as well. Supplements that have been opened may be returned only if it is determined there is a medical reason you cannot take them. Unopened supplements may be returned for a refund within 4 weeks of purchase.

It is best to call ahead before picking up dispensary items to ensure they are available. Because the particular item may need to be ordered, try to plan to pick up the needed item before you run out. **Special order items need to be pre-paid at time of order.** Nutritional supplements are not typically covered by insurance plans. However, supplements are not subject to sales tax if they are prescribed by a doctor. Health savings accounts can be used to pay for the supplements prescribed at our clinic.

10. Test Results and Prescriptions Refills

For prescription refills, please call the pharmacy where the medication will be filled and have them fax our office a prescription refill request. Prescriptions refills typically take between 6 to 48 hours to address. As a general rule, most lab results are received within 7 days except for Pap smears, biopsies, and special testing such as food allergy panels, which can take between 10-14 days. Please note that because of the complexity of some results that are positive, an appointment will be required to discuss them. Labs that are not urgent are discussed at the next follow up visit. If you would like the results sooner, please call us.

I have read, understood, and agree to follow the policies of Alpine Valley Wellness Center.

Patient Name (Please Print)

Patient Signature

Date



Informed Consent for Treatment

This form is part of our effort to inform you about your diagnosis and/or treatment options, alternative courses of action, the material effects, costs, expected benefits, risks, side effects and in each case the consequences of not having the diagnosis and/or treatment acted upon. Please read it carefully.

Your physicians at the Alpine Valley Wellness Center (AVWC) may perform the following procedures as part of the diagnosis and treatment of your health condition:

Common diagnostic procedures: e.g. venipuncture, Pap smears, laboratory tests, etc.

Minor office procedures: e.g. dressing a wound, ear cleansing, etc.

Prescription drugs: as medically necessary and allowed under naturopathic prescriptive rights

Medicinal use of nutrition: therapeutic nutrition, nutritional supplementation, and vitamin injections.

Botanical medicine: botanical substances may be prescribed as teas, alcohol-containing tinctures, capsules, tablets, crèmes, plasters, or suppositories.

Chinese medicine: Chinese medical interventions may include the use of acupuncture, electro-acupuncture, moxibustion, or Chinese herbs.

Electrotherapy: the use of electrical stimulation devices such as ultrasound or microcurrent devices.

Homeopathic medicine: the use of highly dilute quantities of naturally occurring plants, animals, and minerals to gently stimulate the body's healing responses.

Lifestyle counseling and hygiene: education and discussion concerning the promotion of wellness (e.g. recommendations for exercise, sleep, stress reduction, diet, etc.) as well as addressing obstacles to quality of life and health (e.g. smoking, poor lifestyle choices, food allergies, etc.)

Naturopathic psychological counseling: addressing minor mood and psychological problems.

Contraception Counseling and management

I recognize the potential risks and benefits of these procedures, which include but are not limited to:

Potential risks: allergic reactions to herbs and/or supplements, side effects of natural medications, inconvenience of lifestyle changes, injury from injection, venipuncture, or procedures.

Potential benefits: restoration of health, return of maximal functional capacity, relief from symptoms including pain, injury and prevention of disease or its progression.

I agree to inform my AVWC clinician of any disease process that I am suffering from and any medications or over the counter drugs that I am currently taking. I will also advise my doctor immediately if I am pregnant, suspect that I am pregnant, or if I am or will begin breast-feeding.

Having read and fully understood the items described above, I hereby authorize the AVWC to perform the described medical procedures, as necessary to facilitate my diagnosis and treatment. I understand that no guarantees have been given to me by AVWC regarding cure or improvement of my condition. I understand that I am free to withdraw my consent and to discontinue participation in these procedures at any time. I am also free to ask question about my care that my clinician will answer to the best of their ability.

I further understand that a medical record will be kept of the health services provided for me and that this record will be kept confidential unless otherwise directed by myself, my representative, or as required by law. I acknowledge that I can request to view my medical record at any time and can request a copy of it by paying a copying fee. My medical record will be kept for a minimum of three but no more than ten years after the date of my last visit. I understand that the clinicians at AVWC may be constrained in their activities by the rules and laws of the State of Washington, my insurance company, and the federal government.

Date

Signature of Patient or Patient Representative



What are Non-Covered Services?

Your medical insurance benefits are governed by a contract with your insurance company. In this contract, the insurance provider details those medical interventions and procedure that are allowed, which are called covered services. Those medical interventions and procedure that are not covered are called **non-covered services**.

In deciding what an insurance company considers covered and non-covered services, they are typically guided by a principle that assesses if a procedure is “medically necessary.” There is usually a code or legal definition that they ascribe to. For example, medically necessary could be defined as a procedure that is required to identify or treat a recipient’s illness, injury, or disability. Such a procedure would have to be warranted by the individual’s symptoms and be consistent with the defined standards of acceptable care by the conventional medical system. They may require that the procedure or intervention be supported by research and not be what they deem “experimental.” The following is a list of items that may be considered “non-covered services”:

- Dietary counseling, treatment and diagnostic procedures primarily for obesity or for weight reduction.
- Dental health services, particularly if preventative in nature.
- Treatment or removal of corns, callosities, or the cutting or trimming of nails.
- Fertility testing, diagnosis, evaluation and treatment.
- Artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer procedures.
- Genetic testing, genetic treatment, or genetic engineering:
- Nutrition care, supplements, supplies or other nutritional substances.
- Services related to any surgical, laser or nonsurgical procedures or alterations of the refractive character of the cornea for correction of near-sightedness and/or astigmatism.
- Orthopedic shoes or orthotics for the feet.
- Food antigen and/or sublingual therapy.
- Mental health services, psychological or alcoholism and drug abuse counseling services.
- Cosmetic service or cosmetic surgery.
- Organ and tissue transplantation.
- Home health, skilled nursing care, skilled nursing facility and hospice services.

Another phrases that you often see in your contracts with your insurance company are these:

- “A medically necessary procedure cannot be solely for the convenience of the recipient and/or their family.”
- “If a non-covered service is provided to a covered person, the covered person has the responsibility for payment.”

This and other phrases like it are important for you to understand. The bottom line is that while you may think something is medically necessary or critical for your health, that has no bearing on whether the procedure will be covered by your insurance company. And if the insurance company has decided it is not covered, either that service is not available to you or you will have to pay for it out of pocket.

While many of the services provided by naturopathic physicians are covered by medical insurance, some of the services that naturopathic medicine strongly believes to be an important part of health care, such as prevention, lifestyle interventions, and nutritional counseling, may not be covered by your insurance company. We are providing this handout to you in order to educate you about the realities of your health care coverage so that you will be in the position to make informed choices, both concerning the insurance companies you do business with and about the services that may or may not be available to you.

Non-Covered Services: Consent for Treatment

The following services may or may not be covered by your insurance plan.

Wellness services and counseling. I understand that Dr. Piscopo and Dr. Thomas are licensed to provide counseling and wellness services but they are not psychologists or psychiatrists. Counseling services are focused on lifestyle issues, relationship issues, and wellness – not to treat or diagnose major mental illnesses. Wellness and counseling services may fall outside the guidelines for medically necessary treatment and therefore may not be covered by your insurance plan. I request and agree to pay for these services regardless of the insurance company's determination of benefits.

Nambudripad's Allergy Elimination Techniques (NAET). This service is typically billed as a regular office visit, though it could be considered a contract exclusion by some insurance plans.

Maintenance/ Palliative Care. Services in this category, which include many treatments for chronic conditions, are not considered curative. They therefore may not be deemed medically necessary by your insurance company and may not be a covered service.

Laboratory Testing. Some laboratory tests may not be covered by your insurance plan. These may include candida testing, cancer screening, blood typing, food allergy panels, digestive analysis, heavy metal testing or any laboratory testing not specifically approved by your insurance company.

Other _____

I _____ hereby request and personally agree to accept full financial responsibility for the medical care received from the Alpine Valley Wellness Center, which may include non-covered services as determined by my current insurance benefits.

(Patient's Signature or Signature of Legal Guardian) Date _____

(Patient's Social Security Number) OR _____
(Legal Guardian's Social Security Number)

Alpine Valley Wellness Center, PC

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

At Alpine Valley Wellness Center (AVWC) we are committed to maintaining the confidentiality of your personal financial and health information. As part of providing care and services to you, we are required to maintain *Protected Health Information* or PHI about you. State and federal law protects this kind of information by limiting its use and disclosure. A more extensive version of our Privacy Practices is available for viewing at our clinic.

As Required by the Privacy Regulations Created as a Result of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996(HIPAA), Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act), Omnibus Rule, and associated regulations and amendments.

If you have any questions about this notice or if you need more information, please contact

**Alpine Valley Wellness Center
Attn: Gary Piscopo, ND, LAc., HIPAA Privacy and Security Officer
430 Elva Way
East Wenatchee, WA 98802**

ABOUT THIS NOTICE

This Notice will tell you about the ways in which we may use and disclose health information about you. It also describes your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of health information. We are required by law to follow the terms of this Notice that is currently in effect. You may always obtain a copy of our current notice by any of the following means:

1. Accessing our website at www.alpinevalleywellnesscenter.com
2. Contacting our office
3. Asking for a copy at the time of your next visit

WHAT IS PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (“PHI”)

PHI is information that individually identifies you. We create a record or get from you or from another health care provider, health plan, your employer, or a health care clearinghouse that relates to:

- Your past, present, or future physical or mental health or conditions,
- The provision of health care to you, or
- The past, present, or future payment for your health care.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR PHI

We may use and disclose your PHI in the following circumstances:

Treatment.We may use or disclose your PHI to give you medical treatment or services and to manage and coordinate your medical care. For example, your PHI may be provided to a physician or other health care provider (e.g., a specialist or laboratory) to whom you have been referred to ensure that the physician or other health care provider has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you or provide you with a service.

Payment.We may use and disclose your PHI so that we can bill for the treatment and services you receive from us and can collect payment from you, a health plan, or a third party. This use and disclosure 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. For example, we may need to give your health plan information about your treatment in order for your health plan to agree to pay for that treatment.

Health Care Operations.We may use and disclose PHI for our health care operations. For example, we may use your PHI to internally review the quality of the treatment and services you receive and to evaluate the performance of our team members in caring for you. We also may disclose information to physicians, nurses, medical technicians, medical students, and other authorized personnel for educational and learning purposes.

Appointment Reminders/Treatment Alternatives/Health-Related Benefits and Services.We may use and disclose PHI to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment for medical care, or to contact you to tell you about possible treatment options or alternatives or health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Minors.We may disclose the PHI of minor children to their parents or guardians unless such disclosure is otherwise prohibited by law.

Research. We may use and disclose your PHI for research purposes, but we will only do that if the research has been specially approved by an authorized institutional review board or a privacy board that has reviewed the research proposal and has set up protocols to ensure the privacy of your PHI. Even without that special approval, we may permit researchers to look at PHI to help them prepare for research, for example, to allow them to identify patients who may be included in their research project, as long as they do not remove, or take a copy of, any PHI. We may disclose PHI to be used in collaborative research initiatives amongst AVWC providers. We may use and disclose a limited data set that does not contain specific readily identifiable information about you for research. However, we will only disclose the limited data set if we enter into a data use agreement with the recipient who must agree to (1) use the data set only for the purposes for which it was provided, (2) ensure the confidentiality and security of the data, and (3) not identify the information or use it to contact any individual.

As Required by Law. We will disclose PHI about you when required to do so by international, federal, state, or local law.

- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose PHI when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or to the health or safety of others. But we will only disclose the information to someone who may be able to help prevent the threat.
- **Business Associates.** We may disclose PHI to our business associates who perform functions on our behalf or provide us with services if the PHI is necessary for those functions or services. For example, we may use another company to do our billing, or to provide transcription or consulting services for us. All of our business associates are obligated, under contract with us, to protect the privacy and ensure the security of your PHI.
- **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ or tissue donor, we may use or disclose your PHI to organizations that handle organ procurement or transplantation – such as an organ donation bank – as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.
- **Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may disclose PHI as required by military command authorities. We also may disclose PHI to the appropriate foreign military authority if you are a member of a foreign military.
- **Workers' Compensation.** We may use or disclose PHI for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- **Public Health Risks.** We may disclose PHI for public health activities. This includes disclosures to: (1) a person subject to the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") for purposes related to the quality, safety or effectiveness of an FDA-regulated product or activity; (2) prevent or control disease, injury or disability; (3) report births and deaths; (4) report child abuse or neglect; (5) report reactions to medications or problems with products; (6) notify people of recalls of products they may be using; and (7) a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.
- **Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence.** We may disclose PHI to the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence and the patient agrees or we are required or authorized by law to make that disclosure.
- **Health Oversight Activities.** We may disclose PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, licensure, and similar activities that are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.
- **Data Breach Notification Purposes.** We may use or disclose your PHI to provide legally required notices of unauthorized access to or disclosure of your health information.
- **Lawsuits and Disputes.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose PHI in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose PHI in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other legal process from someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to get an order protecting the information requested. We may also use or disclose your PHI to defend ourselves in the event of a lawsuit.
- **Law Enforcement.** We may disclose PHI, so long as applicable legal requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes.
- **Military Activity and National Security.** If you are involved with military, national security or intelligence activities or if you are in law enforcement custody, we may disclose your PHI to authorized officials so they may carry out their legal duties under the law.
- **Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors.** We may disclose PHI to a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director so that they can carry out their duties.
- **Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose PHI to the correctional institution or law enforcement official if the disclosure is 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) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Uses and Disclosures That Require Us to Give You an Opportunity to Object and Opt Out

- **Individuals Involved in Your Care.** Unless you object in writing, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your PHI that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

- **Payment for Your Care.** Unless you object in writing, you can exercise your rights under HIPAA that your healthcare provider not disclose information about services received when you pay in full out of pocket for the service and refuse to file a claim with your health plan.
- **Disaster Relief.** We may disclose your PHI to disaster relief organizations that seek your PHI to coordinate your care, or notify family and friends of your location or condition in a disaster. We will provide you with an opportunity to agree or object to such a disclosure whenever we practicably can do so.
- **Fundraising Activities.** We may use or disclose your PHI, as necessary, in order to contact you for fundraising activities. You have the right to opt out of receiving fundraising communications.

Your Written Authorization if Required for Other Uses and Disclosures

The following uses and disclosures of your PHI will be made only with your written authorization:

- Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes;
- Uses and disclosures of PHI for marketing purposes; and
- Disclosures that constitute a sale of your PHI.

Other uses and disclosures of PHI not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you do give us an authorization, you may revoke it at any time by submitting a written revocation to our Privacy Officer and we will no longer disclose PHI under the authorization. But disclosure that we made in reliance on your authorization before you revoked it will not be affected by the revocation.

Your Rights Regarding Your PHI

You have the following rights, subject to certain limitations, regarding your PHI:

- **Inspect and Copy.** You have the right to inspect, receive, and copy PHI that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. We have up to **30 days** to make your PHI available to you and we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request. You can only direct us in writing to submit your PHI to a third party not covered in this notice. We may not charge you a fee if you need the information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state or federal needs-based benefit program. We may deny your request in certain limited circumstances. If we do deny your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional who was not directly involved in the denial of your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.
- **Summary or Explanation.** We can also provide you with a summary of your PHI, rather than the entire record, or we can provide you with an explanation of the PHI which has been provided to you, so long as you agree to this alternative form and pay the associated fees.
- **Electronic Copy of Electronic Medical Records.** If your PHI is maintained in an electronic format (known as an electronic medical record or an electronic health record), you have the right to request that an electronic copy of your record be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity. If the PHI is not readily producible in the form or format you request your record will be provided in a readable hard copy form.
- **Receive Notice of a Breach.** You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured PHI.
- **Request Amendments.** If you feel that the PHI we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for us. A request for amendment must be made in writing to the Privacy Officer at the address provided at the beginning of this Notice and it must tell us the reason for your request. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If we deny your request for an amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal.
- **Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to ask for an “accounting of disclosures,” which is a list of the disclosures we made of your PHI. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. The first accounting of disclosures you request within any 12- month period will be free. For additional requests within the same period, we may charge you for the reasonable costs of providing the list. We will tell you what the costs are, and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request before the costs are incurred.
- **Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the PHI we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment, or health care operations. We are not required by federal regulation to agree to your request. If we do agree with your request, we will comply unless the information is needed to provide emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. Your request must state the specific restriction requested, whether you want to limit our use and/or disclosure; and to whom you want the restriction to apply.
- **Request Confidential Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you only in certain ways to preserve your privacy. For example, you may request that we contact you by mail at a specific address or call you only at your work number. You must make any such request in writing and you must specify how or where we are to contact you.

Paper Copy of This Notice.

You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. You may obtain a copy of this Notice by visiting our website: www.alpinevalleywellnesscenter.com/or by contacting our office.

Changes to This Notice

AVWC reserves the right to change this Notice. We reserve the right to make the changed Notice effective for PHI we already have as well as for any PHI we create or receive in the future. A copy of our current Notice is posted in our office and on our website.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Alpine Valley Wellness Center, Privacy and Security Officer, at the address listed at the beginning of this Notice. You can also file a complaint by contacting the Secretary of Health and Human Services. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

Alpine Valley Wellness Center, PC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF PATIENT NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

I acknowledge that I read and/or received a copy of the Alpine Valley Wellness Center Patient Notice of Privacy Practices.

Signature of Patient _____ Date _____

Signature of Patient Representative (If the patient is a minor or an adult who is unable to sign this form)

Name of Patient (Print or Type) _____

Please submit all requests for medical records in writing to our office to assist us in tracking your request. There may be a charge for transferring medical records.

This notice became effective on April 14th 2004.NPP updated 8/18/15



Getting the Most from Your Medical Visit

An office visit with a naturopathic doctor (ND) is somewhat different from a visit to a conventional medical doctor (MD). Since one of the main principles of naturopathic medicine is getting to the root of your medical issues, naturopathic physicians typically spend more time with you. Ironically, the fact that your ND spends more time with you can lead to some misunderstandings. For example, there is the misperception that all visits with the doctor will be as long as the first one or that the doctor has unlimited time for each visit. This is not the case and, to understand why, we need to touch upon insurance reimbursement.

The medical care you receive is heavily influenced by what your insurance company is willing to pay for. Insurance companies impose many constraints and reimburse only if there is enough documented justification based on complexity of your case, physical exam done, number of symptoms, etc. just like an MD. It is a sad reality that our doctors are constrained in this way by the dictates of the insurance companies and cannot spend as much time with you as they would like or that you feel you may need.

Insurance companies will also only reimburse the doctors for certain medical conditions. A good example of this is mental health issues. While your ND may speak to you about depression, stress, anxiety, and grief because it is important, they are typically not reimbursed for this. This time is essentially donated to you by your naturopathic physician in order for them to secure a good understanding of your medical situation. Also, these issues cannot be the focus of the visit unless you have specific mental health benefits or there is a physical manifestation of the mental health issue such as insomnia.

Insurance reimbursements are structured to reward practitioners who see a large number of patients in a short amount of time. Part of the success of naturopathic medicine, on the other hand, is that we take the time to get to the root of the problem and time to do educational, preventative, and lifestyle-intensive interventions. However, your insurance company does not reimburse for much of this. We absorb the cost of doing these interventions without charging you because we believe they have a tremendously positive impact on your health. But there are limits to what we can do in any one visit. To help us provide optimum care, we suggest the following:

- Please prioritize a maximum of **two** health issues per visit for best results. This will ensure that these issues will get maximal attention. If you feel you have multiple urgent issues or need more time with the doctor, please discuss this with the front desk when scheduling your appointment. We can then be in a better position to schedule your time with the doctor most appropriately.
- Follow up visits are usually 20 or 40 minutes – again, based on the constraints discussed above. In some instances, such as acupuncture or electrotherapy, you may be in the treatment room longer, but generally the doctor will only be available for the allotted time.
- Please present questions and concerns as early as possible in the visit so we can ensure they will be addressed. If you wait till the end of the visit to mention the issue, or have multiple issues that are not prioritized, **we cannot ensure that the issue or issues will be addressed.**
- Please be diligent about following through on directions that will impact your treatment. For example, it is important to be well hydrated for your electrotherapy sessions or to complete requested lab work.

In closing, please be aware that if you ever have any questions or concerns about your health care, please do not hesitate to talk to us about them. The main reason our clinic exists is to be of service to our patients – in other words, to you. Thank you for allow us to assist you with your medical care.