



**DIRECT PRIMARY CARE PATIENT AGREEMENT**  
**HealthSprings Direct, LLC.**

This is an Agreement between HealthSprings Direct, LLC. (**Practice**), a Georgia LLC, located at 4000 Shakerag Hill #100, Peachtree City GA 30269, and you, (**Patient**).

**Background**

Providers providing services to the Practice (referred to collectively as **Providers**), deliver care on behalf of the Practice in Peachtree City, Georgia. The practice website is [www.HealthSpringsDirect.com](http://www.HealthSpringsDirect.com). In exchange for certain fees paid by You, Practice, through its Provider(s), agrees to provide the Patient with the Services described in this Agreement on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

**Terms and Conditions**

- 1. Practice's Acceptance of Patient.** A patient is defined as a person for whom the Practice and its Providers shall provide Services, as defined in Section 2. Upon receipt of this Agreement signed by the Patient along with the required fees, the Practice shall have the option in its sole discretion not to accept the Patient under the Program and to return Patient's payment. *This Agreement is not executed until accepted and signed by the Practice.*
- 2. Services.** As used in this Agreement, the term Services, shall mean a package of ongoing primary care services, both medical and non-medical, which are offered by Practice, and set forth in Appendix 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference (collectively "Services"). The Patient will be provided with methods to contact the physician via phone, email, and other methods of electronic communication. Providers at the Practice will make every effort to address the needs of the Patient in a timely manner, but cannot guarantee availability, and cannot guarantee that the patient will not need to seek treatment in the urgent care or emergency department settings.
- 3. Fees.** In exchange for the Services, Patient agrees to pay Practice the amount as set forth in Appendix 2 attached and incorporated herein by reference. Patient acknowledges and understands that on the first day of each month under this Agreement, the Practice will have earned the full monthly fee. Applicable enrollment fees are payable upon execution of this agreement and earned upon receipt. Practice reserves the right to charge a re-enrollment fee to any individual who wishes to re-enroll after a prior enrollment has ended as specified in Appendix 2. In the event that either party terminates this Agreement and the Practice maintains any unearned portion of any fees paid, the Practice shall refund the unearned portion of any fees to the Patient within thirty (30) days of termination of this Agreement.
- 4. Non-Participation in Insurance.** Patient acknowledges that neither Practice nor the Physicians participate in any health insurance or HMO plans. Physicians have opted out of Medicare. Patient acknowledges that federal regulations REQUIRE that Physicians opt out of Medicare so that Medicare patients may be seen by the Practice pursuant to this private direct primary care contract. Neither the Practice nor Physicians make any representations regarding third party insurance reimbursement of fees paid under this Agreement. The Patient shall retain full and complete responsibility for any such determination. If the Patient is eligible for Medicare, or during the term of this Agreement becomes eligible for Medicare,

then Patient will sign the agreement attached as Appendix 6 and incorporated by reference. This agreement acknowledges your understanding that the Physician has opted out of Medicare, and as a result, Medicare cannot be billed for any services performed for you by the Physician. You agree not to bill Medicare or attempt Medicare reimbursement for any such services.

**5. Insurance or Other Medical Coverage.** Patient acknowledges and understands that this Agreement is not an insurance plan, and not a substitute for health insurance or other health plan coverage (such as membership in an HMO). It will not cover hospital services, or any services not personally provided by Practice, or its Physicians. Patient acknowledges that Practice has advised that Patient obtain or keep in full force such health insurance policy or plans that will cover Patient for general healthcare costs. Patient acknowledges that THIS AGREEMENT IS **NOT** A CONTRACT THAT PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE. This Agreement in isolation, does NOT meet the insurance requirements of the Affordable Care Act and is not intended to replace any existing or future health insurance or health plan coverage that Patient may carry. This Agreement is for ongoing primary care, and the Patient may need to visit the emergency room or urgent care from time to time. It is the responsibility of the Patient to determine if any fees paid under this Agreement are eligible for a Health Savings Accounts ("HSA"), Flexible Spending Accounts ("FSA"), Health Reimbursement Arrangement, or similar accounts or plans. The Practice recommends that the Patient discuss tax guidelines/law with their accountant or attorney. Members are responsible for ensuring that the insurance coverage they have will reimburse for filed claims or will honor the Provider's referrals and recommendations with expected reimbursements.

**6. Term and Termination.** This Agreement is effective on the date on which the following actions occur: (1) this Agreement is signed by the Patient and Practice; (2) the Patient pays the enrollment fee, or re-enrollment fee, as applicable; (3) and the Patient pays or guarantees payment for the first month ("Effective Date"). Services will commence the first day of the month following the Effective Date ("Commencement Date") and will continue for the remainder of that month, and will automatically renew for consecutive monthly terms until terminated in accordance with this section.

Notwithstanding the above, both Patient and Practice shall have the absolute and unconditional right to terminate the Agreement, without the showing of any cause for termination, in accordance with this section. On any day during a monthly term of this Agreement, the Patient may provide notice of the Patient's intent to terminate this Agreement, which shall take effect on the thirty-first (31st) day after notice. The Patient will continue to have access to services until the last day of the applicable month term. For the Practice to terminate this Agreement, the Practice shall give at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Patient, which notice shall state the last date of the month on which this Agreement terminates. The Practice may terminate a patient without cause as long as the termination is handled appropriately (without violating patient abandonment laws). Examples of reasons the Practice may wish to terminate the agreement with the Patient may include but are not limited to:

- (a) The Patient fails to pay applicable fees owed pursuant to Appendix 2;
- (b) The Patient has performed an act that constitutes fraud;
- (c) The Patient repeatedly fails to adhere to the recommended treatment plan,
- (d) The Patient is abusive, or presents an emotional or physical danger to the staff or other patients of Practice; and
- (e) The Practice discontinues operation.

Upon termination, the Practice shall also provide the patient with a list of other Practices in the community in a manner consistent with applicable patient abandonment laws. Unless

previously terminated as set forth above, at the expiration of the initial one-month term (and each succeeding monthly term), the Agreement will automatically renew for successive monthly terms upon the payment of the monthly fee at the end of the contract month. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, access for acute issues and chronic medication refills will continue for 30 days from notice of termination.

7. **Privacy & Communications.** You acknowledge that communications with the Physician using e-mail, facsimile, video chat, instant messaging, and cell phone are not guaranteed to be secure or confidential methods of communications. The practice will make an effort to secure all communications via passwords and other protective means and these will be discussed in an annually updated Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) "Risk Assessment." The practice will make an effort to promote the utilization of the most secure methods of communication, such as software platforms with data encryption, HIPAA familiarity, and a willingness to sign HIPAA Business Associate Agreements. This may mean that conversations over certain communication platforms are highlighted as preferable based on higher levels of data encryption, but many communication platforms, including email, may be made available to the patient. If the Patient initiates a conversation in which the Patient discloses "Protected Health Information (PHI)" on one or more of these communication platforms, then the Patient has authorized the Practice to communicate with the Patient regarding PHI in the same format. . Patient accepts the risk inherent in the use of any of the above-indicated communication methods for diagnoses, treatment, or any other healthcare or business-related reason. Patient expressly waives any obligation to guarantee confidentiality with respect to correspondence using such means of communication. Patient acknowledges that all such communications may become a part of Patient's medical records. Patient authorizes the Practice and the Providers to communicate results, findings, and health care decisions to the Patient, individuals responsible for Patient's care, and individuals designated by the Patient. Patient also acknowledges the following:

- A. Email is not an appropriate means of communication in an emergency, for time-sensitive problems, or for disclosing sensitive information. In an emergency, or a situation that Patient could reasonably expect to develop into an emergency, Patient understands and agrees to call 911, and follow the directions of emergency personnel.
- B. If Patient does not receive a response to an e-mail/text message within 24 hours, Patient agrees that Patient will contact the Practice by telephone or other means. If it is an urgent issue and email/text messages have not been answered within one hour, Patient agrees to call the Practice using the phone number within one hour.
- C. The Practice will not be liable for any loss, injury, or expense arising from a delay in responding to a Patient when that delay is caused by technical failure. Examples of technical failures include but are not limited to: (i) failures caused by an internet service provider, (ii) power outages, (iii) failure of electronic messaging systems or email providers (iv) failure of the Practice's computers or computer network, or faulty telephone or cable transmission, or (v) any interception of email communications by a third party.

8. **Severability.** If for any reason any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be legally invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction to which it applies, the validity of the remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected, and that provision shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make that provision consistent with applicable law and in its modified form, and that provision shall then be enforceable.

9. **Reimbursement for Services if Agreement is Invalidated.** If this Agreement is held to be invalid for any reason, and if Practice is therefore required to refund all or any portion of the monthly fees paid by Patient, Patient agrees to pay Practice an amount equal to the fair market value of the Services actually rendered to Patient during the period of time for which the refunded fees were paid.

10. **Assignment.** This Agreement, and any rights Patient may have under it, may not be assigned or transferred by Patient. This agreement, and any rights Patient may have under it, may not be assigned or transferred by Patient. Any Patient who attempts to request treatment for a non-member will have their membership agreement terminated by the practice. (An example would be a Patient calling to see if a medication could be called in for a non-member spouse, child, or friend. Another example would be a Patient bringing a non-member to an office visit and asking for treatment or evaluation). Patient understands that the Practice maintains a smaller patient panel to limit its liability, and treating non-members could jeopardize such liability.

11. **Modifications.** The Practice reserves the right to modify this Agreement (including all Appendices) in any manner in its sole discretion by hand delivering to you, by sending information regarding the amendment to the email or physical address you provide, or posting the updated terms on the Practice’s website. You shall be deemed to have accepted such amendments by continued use of the Services following fifteen days after such amendments have been sent to you or posted. Each time you use any of the Services in any manner or cause them to be provided, you reaffirm your agreement to this Agreement and any modification to this Agreement. You agree that the Practice shall not be liable to you or any third party for any harm resulting from modification(s) to this Agreement

12. **Jurisdiction.** This Agreement shall be governed and construed under the laws of the State of Georgia and all disputes arising out of this Agreement shall be settled in the court of proper venue and jurisdiction for the Practice address in Tyrone, Georgia.

13. **Payments.** The required method of payment is recurring monthly credit or debit card charge, or automated bank transfer. Fees will be charged according to the billing policies and procedures set forth in Appendix 2. By signing this Agreement, the Patient hereby authorizes the Practice or its designee to bill the monthly fee installment amount payable at the beginning of each month of the term to the following account:

Cardholder Name

Card Number

Expiration

Credit Card Zip Code

The Patient shall owe the Practice \$20 for any charge attempt that is declined.

14. **Conditions.** This agreement does not grant a Membership interest in HealthSprings Direct, L.L.C.. Patients are not entitled to any rights or benefits granted to those that hold a membership interest of HealthSprings Direct, L.L.C.

**15. Patient Understandings (please initial each):**

- I do NOT expect the practice to file or fight any third party insurance claims on my behalf.
- I do NOT *expect* the practice to prescribe **chronic** controlled substances on my behalf. (These include commonly abused opioid medications, benzodiazepines, and stimulants.)
- If controlled substances are prescribed, I understand that I will be asked to sign a controlled substance agreement delineating rights and expectations and will be expected to perform periodic urine drug screening, with associated laboratory costs, for which I am responsible.

- If I have a complaint about the Practice I will first notify the Practice directly.
- In the event of a medical emergency, I agree to call 911 first.
- I do NOT have an emergency medical problem at this time.
- I am enrolling (myself and my family if applicable) in the practice voluntarily.
- I may receive a copy of this document upon request.
- This Agreement is non-transferable and non-assignable.

I, the Patient (or Responsible Party) acknowledge that I have been given the opportunity to read and ask questions about the provisions and information contained in this Agreement, including all Appendixes attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and I affirm either that I have no questions or that all of my questions were answered to my satisfaction.

**THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT HEALTH INSURANCE. PAYMENTS MADE BY A PROGRAM MEMBER DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS PROGRAM MEMBER'S HEALTH INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLES AND MAXIMUM OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES. THIS AGREEMENT DOES NOT QUALIFY AS MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE TO SATISFY THE INDIVIDUAL SHARED RESPONSIBILITY PROVISION OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, 26 U.S.C. S. 5000A. THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND DOES NOT REPLACE AN EMPLOYER'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER CHAPTER 440. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROGRAM MEMBER TO DETERMINE IF ANY FEES PAID UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT, FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT, OR SIMILAR ACCOUNTS OR PLANS.**

Signature of Program Member \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Responsible Party)

Printed Name of Program Member \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party's relationship:  Parent  Guardian  POA  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Program Member \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Responsible Party)

Printed Name of Program Member \_\_\_\_\_

Responsible Party's relationship:  Parent  Guardian  POA  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **HealthSprings Services**

#### **Services**

Under this Agreement, the Practice will provide services generally consistent with ongoing primary care services. Examples of common conditions the Practice treats, procedures it offers, and medications its Providers prescribe are listed on our website at [www.HealthSpringsDirect.com](http://www.HealthSpringsDirect.com) and are subject to change. The Practice does not provide urgent care or emergency services but will provide the below medical and non-medical services as appropriate to each Patient as determined in the Practice's and Providers' discretions.

Medical Services: Medical Services means those medical services provided by the Practice that the Providers are licensed and permitted to perform under the laws of the State of Georgia and that the Providers determine are appropriate for the Patient in the Provider's sole discretion. Membership in the Practice may include the following Medical Services:

1. Primary HealthCare Services. Examples of such services may include the following:
  - a. Well/preventive office visits, which are visits for the preservation of physical and mental wellness, discussion of preventative guidelines, nutrition and exercise following recommended guidelines by the American College of Physicians, American Board of Internal Medicine and the US Preventive Services Task Force.
  - b. Evaluation of new problems, including but not limited to treatment of sore throats, coughs, colds, other minor illness and injury, certain minor surgical procedures, and any other services within the scope of Internal Medicine training.
  - c. Follow-up visits for the management of long-term medical conditions including, but not limited to, asthma, hypertension, diabetes, hypothyroidism, auto-immune issues, kidney disease and other chronic conditions/illnesses within the scope of Internal Medicine.
  - d. Care coordination to assist other health team members by organizing and forwarding pertinent information from primary exams for use by specialists including progress notes, laboratory results, and imaging reports.
2. Urgent Medical Care. A Member who has an acute illness or is otherwise in need of medical care for a condition which is not life-threatening who calls the Practice's main phone number at (470) 615-7224 before 12:00 p.m. on a normal business day or on a weekend or holiday, shall receive a return call before 6:00 p.m. that same day. Most of the calls will be returned within 2 hours unless the Provider is unable to do so. After a telephone consultation with the Member, the Provider will determine, within his/her sole discretion, whether the illness or medical condition requires same-day physician care. If same-day physician care is warranted, arrangements will be discussed with the Patient to determine whether an office visit, telemedicine visit, phone visit, Urgent Care visit, or Emergency Room visit is most appropriate. If same-day care is not warranted in the Provider's sole judgment, the Patient shall be scheduled for an appointment on the next available business day which is not a

weekend day or holiday.

3. **Specialist Care/Referrals.** If the Provider treating the Patient feels a healthcare need is outside of the scope of primary care, referral to a specialist will be warranted. Membership in the Program does not preclude medically necessary specialist evaluation or referral as deemed appropriate by the Provider treating the Patient. If the Patient does not agree to follow through on a recommendation for specialist referral by the Provider, the Patient will be asked to sign an Against Medical Advice form and the Practice reserves the right to terminate the Patient's membership in the Program. Although the Practice may help procure specialist cash pricing for the Member, it is not the responsibility of the Practice to guarantee discounted specialist pricing. If the Practice does not have information providing specialist cash pricing on hand, it will be the Patient's responsibility to obtain such pricing at the specialist's office.

Non-Medical Services: The Practice shall also provide Patient with the following Non-Medical Services:

1. **Continuous Access.** Practice will make every effort to ensure Providers are available at all times via phone, email, other methods such as "after hours" appointments when appropriate, but Practice cannot guarantee 24/7 availability. During routine visits, the Patient will receive training on how best to communicate with the Practice.
  - a. The Patient shall communicate non-urgent needs by communication with Practice during business hours or after hours, but non-urgent needs may not be addressed for 1-2 business days.
  - b. The Patient shall communicate urgent needs by directly calling the office during office hours and by calling the private cell phone number for the Provider after office hours whenever necessary. The Patient agrees NOT to email or text urgent issues during office hours as the Practice is seeing and giving its full attention to other patients. In this situation, it is strongly recommended that the Patient calls the office directly at (470) 615-7224. If the Patient is having a life-threatening emergency issue, the Patient agrees to call 911 or proceed directly to an emergency room. The Practice will try to return all urgent calls/messages within 60 minutes to the best of its ability. If the Patient does not receive a call, text, message back from the Practice after 60 minutes, the Patient agrees to try and call the Practice by phone again.
2. **Email Access.** The Patient shall be able to communicate with the Practice through a non-secure platform using office email addresses directly linked to the Patient's electronic health record. These emails will be provided upon enrollment.
3. **Text Messaging.** The Patient shall be able to communicate with the Practice using office text messaging on a non-secure platform directly linked to the Patient's electronic health record. The number to be used for texting will be provided upon enrollment. The Patient acknowledges that during office hours the Practice may not be able to check text messages, so if there is an urgent medical need that requires immediate attention the Patient is to call the office.
4. **Video Visits.** Video visits are accomplished through a secure platform using the electronic health record.
5. **Phone Calls/Visits.** The Patient will use the office number during office hours as

outlined above. The Patient will use a Provider's private number, which will be provided upon enrollment, to call the Practice after-hours/weekends/holidays for acute issues.

6. No Wait or Minimal Wait Appointments. Every effort shall be made to assure that the Patient is seen by a Provider immediately upon arriving for a scheduled office visit or after only a minimal wait.
7. Same Day/Next Day Appointments. Routine visits can be scheduled by calling the office or emailing the staff. For acute issues requiring same/next day appointments, the Patient can call the office prior to 12:00 p.m. on a normal office day (Monday through Friday) to schedule an appointment. Every reasonable effort will be made to schedule it the same day. If the Patient calls after 12:00 p.m. for an acute/urgent issue, and if there is no availability that day, the visit will be scheduled the next business day. Please note, this is subject to availability, however, we will make every effort possible for the Patient to be seen in a timely manner.



## **APPENDIX 2**

### **HealthSprings Fees**

#### **Fee Schedule**

Enrollment Fee – The enrollment fee is a one-time fee of \$100 per member enrolled for Services at the Practice. The registration fee is waived for children(s) when a parent is enrolling. This is charged when the Patient enrolls with the Practice and is nonrefundable. This fee is subject to change. If a patient discontinues membership and wishes to re-enroll in the practice we reserve the right to decline re-enrollment. Should re-enrollment occur, a re-enrollment fee of \$450.00 will be required. Because there is no long-term commitment, this is in place to discourage frequent disenrollment and re-enrollment.

Monthly Fee and Visits – This fee is for ongoing primary care services. Twenty scheduled in person visits per year are available to you at no additional cost. Each scheduled in person visit over twenty will be charged a \$50 per visit fee. Your number of virtual visits (e-mail, electronic, phone) are not capped. We prefer that you schedule visits more than 24 hours in advance when possible. Some ancillary services will be passed through “at cost” (no markup by us). Examples of these ancillary services include laboratory testing, procedures, and dispensed medications and these are described in Appendix B. Many services available in our office (such as EKGs) are available at no additional cost to you. Items available at no additional cost will be listed on our website and are subject to change.

Amendments to Monthly Fee – The monthly periodic fee is listed on the website per month and is subject to change. The Practice may change the periodic fee by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding when the change will go into effect. It is the Patient’s responsibility to check the Practice’s website before the end of each month to see any changes to the periodic fee. If the Patient wishes to terminate this Agreement before incurring the new monthly fee, the Patient may do so by following the termination procedures of the Term and Termination Section of the Agreement. The periodic fee will be billed at the beginning of each month of this Agreement.

Missed Appointment Fee – We reserve the right to charge \$50 fee for each no-notice, missed appointment; that appointment time could have been given to another person, even with same day cancellation notice.

#### **Direct Itemized Fees**

There are minimal, if any, itemized fees outside of laboratory and imaging fees during office visits unless the patient has more than twenty scheduled in-office visits in a calendar year. Extra/Ancillary fees will be discussed with the patient during the visit prior to providing services. Typical examples of direct itemized fees are below:

In-Office Procedures we are generally comfortable performing are listed on the Practice website at [www.HealthSpringsDirect.com](http://www.HealthSpringsDirect.com). These are typically available at no additional cost unless otherwise designated, and these are also subject to change.

Medications will be ordered in the most cost effective manner possible for the Patient. When we dispense medications in the office, these medications will be made available to the patient at near wholesale cost. There will be a \$3.00 surcharge per prescription for associated bottles, packaging and labeling. Examples of commonly dispensed medications and their prices (subject to change) are listed on the practice website.

Laboratory Studies will be ordered in the most economical and cost effective manner possible and will be drawn at stand-alone LabCorp locations or, when staffing is available, on site at the HealthSprings Direct, LLC office. If requested, your insurance information will be given to LabCorp in person at their patient service center and billed to your insurance directly. The remaining balance will be billed to you directly by LabCorp.

Pathology studies (most commonly skin biopsies) will be ordered in the most economical manner possible. Anticipated prices for these studies (subject to change) will be discussed with the patient at the time of ordering.

Radiology studies will be ordered in the most cost effective manner possible for the Patient. Commonly ordered radiologic studies and prices (subject to change) will be discussed with the patient at the time of ordering.

Surgery and specialist consults will be ordered in the most cost effective manner possible for the Patient.

Vaccinations are NOT offered in our office at this time due to the cost prohibitive nature of stocking a limited supply. We will make an effort to help you obtain needed vaccinations elsewhere in the most cost effective manner possible.

Hospital Services are NOT covered by our membership plan, and due to mandatory "on call" duties required at local institutions we have elected NOT to obtain formal hospital admission privileges at this time. Providers will coordinate care with admitting Patient to help minimize unnecessary imaging and testing. Timely hospital follow up care will also be coordinated with the hospitalist service.

Obstetric Services are NOT covered by our membership plan.

### **APPENDIX 3**

#### **HealthSprings Direct Notice of Privacy Practices**

By signing the Agreement, I hereby give my consent for HealthSprings Direct to use and disclose protected health information (PHI) about me to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations (**TPO**) as described in full Notice of Privacy Practices. HSD reserves the right to revise these practices at any time. A revised Notice of Privacy Practice may be obtained by written request to the office privacy officer.

This consent allows HealthSprings Direct to call my home or other alternative location and leave a message on a voicemail or in person in reference to any items that assist the practice in carrying out TPO, such as appointment reminders, insurance items, and any calls pertaining to my clinical care including laboratory and test results among others.

This consent allows HealthSprings Direct to mail to my home or other alternative location any items that assist the practice in carrying out TPO, such as appointment reminder cards and patient statements as long as they are marked personal and confidential.

This consent allows HealthSprings Direct to email my home, or other alternative location any items that assist the practice in carrying out TPO such as appointment reminder cards and patient statements. I have the right to request that HSD restrict how it uses or discloses my PHI to carry out TPO. However, the practice is not required to agree to my requested restrictions. If the practice does agree it is bound by this agreement.

By signing this form, I am consenting to HealthSprings Direct use and disclosure of my PHI to carry out TPO.

I may revoke my consent in writing except to the extent that the practice has already made disclosures in reliance upon my prior consent.

By signing the Agreement, I also consent to and acknowledge receiving the HealthSprings Direct Notice of Privacy Practices.

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **HealthSprings Direct Consent to Treatment**

**MEDICAL AND SURGICAL CONSENT:** When I am in the office, hospital, assisted living facility, independent living facility or nursing home, I permit my HealthSprings Direct provider(s) to treat me in the ways they judge to be beneficial to me. I understand that this consent includes care which may consist of ordering or performing X-ray examination, laboratory procedures, anesthesia, medical, or surgical, or other hospital services rendered to me under the general and special instructions of the physician.

**ARBITRATION AGREEMENT:** The patient agrees that any controversy, including any malpractice claim, arising out of or in any way relating to the diagnosis, treatment or care of the patient by a provider of HealthSprings Direct, including any partners, agents, or employees of the physicians, shall be submitted to binding arbitration. The patient further agrees that any controversy arising out of or in any way relating to a past diagnosis, treatment, or care of the patient by a provider of medical services, or the provider's agents or employees, shall likewise be submitted to binding arbitration.

**ASSIGNMENT OF INSURANCE BENEFITS:** In the event that I am entitled to physician care benefits arising out of any policy of insurance insuring the patient or any other party liable to the patient, those benefits are to be filed for reimbursement by the patient directly. HealthSprings Direct does not file for insurance reimbursement for services directly. The undersigned and/or the patient is fully responsible for charges not covered by the assignment. State disability benefits are assigned where applicable as well.

**GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT:** In consideration of physician services extended to this patient, I/We do hereby assume responsibility for the payment of all charges for such services in accordance with the financial level of benefits available. Health insurance and Medicare only pay for covered items and services. The fact that the entities may not pay for any particular item or service does not mean you should not receive it. Your doctor may have good reason to recommend it. Any and all deductibles and balances arising from covered or uncovered services are payable immediately upon receipt of the physician's bill. I/We hereby guarantee HealthSprings Direct, L.L.C. payment of all charges. Furthermore I/We hereby authorize and appoint the office manager of this practice as my attorney-in-fact to take measures on my behalf as may be necessary to work with any such claims or insurance proceeds. I certify that I have read and understands the foregoing, and is the patient or is duly authorized by the patient as the patient's general agent/representative to execute the above and accepts its terms.

By signing the Agreement, I also consent to and acknowledge receiving the HealthSprings Direct Consent to Treatment.

**Appendix 5**  
**HealthSprings Direct Release of Protected Health Information Authorization**

**GEORGIA HIPAA COMPLIANT AUTHORIZATION FOR THE RELEASE OF PATIENT INFORMATION PURSUANT TO 45 CFR 164.508**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last 4 digits of Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize and request the disclosure of all protected information for the purpose of review and evaluation in connection with a legal claim. I expressly request that the designated record custodian of all covered entities under HIPAA identified above disclose full and complete protected medical information including the following:

- All medical records, meaning every page in my record, including but not limited to: office notes, face sheets, history and physical, consultation notes, inpatient, outpatient and emergency room treatment, all clinical charts, reports, order sheets, progress notes, nurse's notes, social worker records, clinic records, treatment plans, admission records, discharge summaries, requests for and reports of consultations, documents, correspondence, test results, statements, questionnaires/histories, correspondence, photographs, videotapes, telephone messages, and records received by other medical providers.
- All physical, occupational and rehab requests, consultations and progress notes.
- All disability, Medicaid or Medicare records including claim forms and record of denial of benefits.
- All employment, personnel or wage records.
- All autopsy, laboratory, histology, cytology, pathology, immunohistochemistry records and specimens; radiology records and films including CT scan, MRI, MRA, EMG, bone scan, myelogram; nerve conduction study, echocardiogram and cardiac catheterization results, videos/CDs/films/reels and reports.
- All pharmacy/prescription records including NDC numbers and drug information handouts/monographs.
- All billing records including all statements, insurance claim forms, itemized bills, and records of billing to third party payers and payment or denial of benefits for the period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the information to be released or disclosed may include information relating to sexually transmitted diseases, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and alcohol and drug abuse. This authorization is given in compliance with the federal consent requirements for release of alcohol or substance abuse records of 42 CFR 2.31, the restrictions of which have been specifically considered and expressly waived.

You are authorized to release the above records to the following representatives of defendants in the above-entitled matter who have agreed to pay reasonable charges made by you to supply copies of such records:

**Name: Christa Springston, M.D., Elizabeth Jagers, M.D. and/or HealthSprings Direct, LLC**

**Address: 4000 Shakerag Hill  
Suite 100  
Peachtree City, GA 30269**

**Fax: (470) 447-1872  
Tele: (470) 615-7224  
E-mail: info@HealthSpringsDirect.com**

I understand the following: See CFR §164.508(c)(2)(i-iii) a. I have a right to revoke this authorization in writing at any time, except to the extent information has been released in reliance upon this authorization. b. The information released in response to this authorization may be re-disclosed to other parties. c. My treatment or payment for my treatment cannot be conditioned on the signing of this authorization. Any facsimile, copy or photocopy of the authorization shall authorize you to release the records requested herein. This authorization shall be in force and effect until two years from date of execution at which time this authorization expires.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient or Legally Authorized Representative      Date  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Relationship of Legally Authorized Representative to Patient  
Witness Signature      Date

