

Dear Patients:

In 1996, Congress passed the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*, better known as *HIPAA*.

Under the category of *TPO- Treatment Payment and Operations*, the physician offices are allowed to request your Social Security Number **and** the Social Security Number of the policyholder in order to file your insurance claims. Also stated under the *TPO*, the physician offices can only use the Social Security information in order to file a claim and for no other reason.

If you decline to provide us with the necessary Social Security Number(s), the practice has the right to decline to participate in your care.

References:

- Gates. Moore & Associates, Medical Consulting Firm
- Bryan Cave, LLP and Associates