

SB VASCULAR PRIVACY POLICY



SHARMILA BALANATHAN

Vascular, Endovascular & Transplant Surgeon

MBCHB, FRACS

Attending this practice implies that you give consent to obtain, use, store and disclose (if required) health information that is necessary to make an accurate medical diagnosis, prescribe and/or perform appropriate treatment and to be proactive in your health care, as outlined in the policy below.

Why we need to collect information:

Attending this practice implies that you give consent to obtain, use and store that information. Our focus is always on providing you with best possible treatment and we only gather personal information that is necessary to achieving the provision of safe practice and to manage your continued care.

How your information will be used by us and to whom we may need to disclose it:

A patient's personal health information is used or disclosed for purposes directly related to their health care. This may include sharing information with other health care providers (by telephone, facsimile or e-mail) such as:

- Your referring doctor
- Other doctors who have been involved or may become involved in your care
- Pathology and Radiology departments
- Staff in any hospital in which you may be admitted or attended; including clinics
- Other healthcare providers such as physiotherapist, social works, nursing services or homes
- Insurance Providers including Medical Defence

Some information is also provided to Medicare, and private health funds if relevant, for billing and medical rebate purposes.

Information may also be disclosed for quality assurance, clinical assessment and/or professional accreditation.

By law, doctors are sometimes required to disclose information for public interest reasons, eg mandatory reporting of some communicable diseases or to fulfill a medical indemnity insurance obligation.

In addition there are circumstances when information has to be disclosed without patient consent, such as: Emergency situations.

Quality and storage of information:

All patient information held by this practice relevant to the functions of providing health care will be maintained in a form that is accurate, complete and up to date.

The storage, use and, where necessary transfer of personal health information, will be undertaken in a secure manner that protects patient privacy. We will take steps to protect patient privacy if information is to be sent interstate or outside Australia.

It is necessary for medical practices to keep patient information after a patient's last attendance for as long as is required by law or is prudent having regard to administrative requirements.

Access and corrections to information we hold about you:

Patients have the right to request access, to view or to take a copy of their information. Administration charges may be payable.

The right of children to privacy of their health information, based on professional judgement by the doctor and consistent to law, might at times restrict access to this information by parents or guardians.

Upon request a patient's health information held by this practice will be made available to another health service provider.

Information found to be inaccurate or incomplete may be amended.

Changes to our Privacy Policy:

We may amend this Privacy Policy as business requirements or the law changes. Any changes to this Privacy Policy will be updated on our website, www.sbvascular.com.au. Please visit here periodically to ensure that you have our most current policy.

You may discuss any concerns that may arise for you about how we handle your information:

It is important to us that your expectations about the way in which we handle your information are the same as ours. Please do not hesitate to discuss any concerns you may have regarding the privacy of your personal information with us via:

phone: +61 3 9867 7911

email: admin@sbvascular.com.au

post: PO Box 25032, Melbourne VIC 3004