

INFORMED CONSENT

PROVIDED BY PATIENT /PARENT /GUARDIAN

(“the data subject” and also “the signatory”)

IN TERMS OF THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT 4 OF 2013 (POPIA)

FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED AND PROCESSED BY

Blouberg Rheumatology

(“the responsible party”, “practice” and also “the company”)

CONSENT FOR THE PROCESSING AND USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

I understand and agree that:

1. Blouberg Rheumatology is a medical healthcare service providing medical services to patients and as part of its business functions and practice collects and processes Personal Information.
2. The practice collects, stores, uses, handles, processes, transfers, retains, archives and otherwise manages Personal Information.
3. In order to discharge this duty, Blouberg Rheumatology (the practice) requires my express and informed permission to collect and to process my Personal Information or that of my minor dependent/s and adult dependent/s who are unable to provide their own consent.
4. **Purpose**
I consent to the practice sharing my Personal Information with selected healthcare providers, medical schemes, administrators, service providers and any contracted third parties necessary for the provision of any service to me.
I further agree that Personal Information provided to the practice will be used to:
 - give effect to my contractual relationship with the practice and to conduct its operations for the provision of medical or specialist services to me and/or my dependents and for any referrals to other specialists and service providers;
 - provide a report to the practice’s indemnity or insurance providers and the recipient will be notified of the need to protect the confidentiality of the personal information;
 - comply with obligations required by any legislation affecting the practice;
 - protect the legitimate interests of the practice, myself and or any third parties.
 - store my personal and health information in a secure manner in any format;
 - furnish to my medical scheme for services provided to me or my dependents and for medical research purposes;
 - to access mine or my dependents medical scheme benefits;
 - to provide emergency medical services to me/my dependents;
 - retain in terms of the statutory and ethical limits;

- transfer to specialists who will access, view and store my personal health information;
- transfer to third party service providers, including but not limited to IT specialists, sub-contractors and service providers for medical billing, claims processing and debt collection, that are bound contractually in terms of POPIA.
- You further hereby consent that the Practice may contact you by any of the following communication methods, platforms/systems (“communications”); namely: phone, SMS, Email, social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal or similar services or any future communications. You understand that these communications will be used for professional communication only. This will include (but is not limited to) accounts, statements and information, practice information, system updates, professional updates, prescriptions and reports where necessary and indicated. You acknowledge that none of these communications are completely secure or encrypted communications, and you will not hold the Practice responsible for any breach of confidentiality via these communications.

The practice cannot guarantee the security or integrity of any information that I transmit to the practice online or otherwise and I agree and understand that I do this at my own risk.

I understand and agree that if the practice does not have my or my dependents consent, the practice will not be able to commence treatment and cannot share my Personal Information with any specialists/sub-contractors/other providers to optimise my healthcare treatment.

5. **Withholding Consent**

I understand that I can withhold consent to the practice collecting and processing my Personal Information. I agree in this case the practice will not be able to provide medical services to me.

6. **Storage of personal information**

My Personal Information will be stored electronically or in hard copy in a safe and secure environment. Hard copies of Personal Information will be stored and retained safely under lock and key. After I am no longer an active patient, my Personal Information will be retained for as long as law or practice’s indemnity/insurance providers require it.

7.1 **Retention of Personal Information**

The practice will not retain Personal Information for longer than is necessary and for the required purpose.

The exceptions to the above principle specifically provided in POPIA are where –

- 7.1.1 the retention of the record is required or authorised by law;
 - 7.1.2 the practice reasonably requires the record for lawful purposes related to its functions or activities;
 - 7.1.3 the retention of the record is required in terms of an agreement between the practice and myself; or
 - 7.1.4 the record is retained for historical purposes, with the practice having established appropriate safeguards against the record being used for any other purpose.
- 7.2. When the Personal Information is no longer required, it shall be destroyed or deleted in a manner that prevents their reconstruction in an intelligible form.

8. **Intended recipients**

I agree the intended recipients of my Personal Health Information are me, healthcare providers and specialists (including Practice staff or their practice staff, medical schemes/ administrators, medical facilities, medical suppliers, researchers, emergency medical service providers and medical billing service providers). Such disclosure shall always be made between the practice and recipient to comply with strict confidentiality and security conditions as contained in POPI Act. Change of ownership. If we undergo a change in ownership, or a merger with, acquisition by, or sale of assets to, another entity, we may assign our rights to the personal information we process to a successor, purchaser, or separate entity. If you are concerned about your personal information migrating to a new owner, you may request us to delete your personal information.

9. **Transfer outside South Africa**

1. I agree to the practice transferring any Personal Information outside of the borders of South Africa to its indemnity providers that has in place similar privacy laws to POPIA or the recipient is bound contractually to no lesser terms of POPIA. We may transmit or transfer personal information outside South Africa to a foreign country. Personal information may be stored on servers located outside South Africa in a foreign country whose laws protecting personal information may not be as stringent as the laws in South Africa. You consent to us processing your personal information in a foreign country whose laws regarding processing of personal information may be less stringent.

10. I understand that I have the right to have my Personal Information processed in accordance with the conditions of lawful processing of Personal Information as set out in POPIA.

11. **Objection to Processing**

I understand that I have the right, to object to the practice processing my Personal Information, on reasonable grounds. On receipt of my notice of objection with reasons, the practice shall hold any further processing of my Personal Information until my objection has been addressed, resolved,

withdrawn or upheld and accepted by the practice. If my objection is upheld, no further processing of my Personal Information shall be done by the practice. I understand that if I object and I am not satisfied with the outcome I may refer the case to the Information Regulator. I acknowledge that practice also reserves the right to discontinue treatment.

12. **Right to withdraw consent**

I understand that I have the right to withdraw my consent to the practice processing my Personal Information at any time, provided any processing before such withdrawal or if the processing is necessary for the conclusion or performance of a contract to which I am a party will not be affected. I understand that I can revoke consent for any specific healthcare provider, or person who has access to my Personal Information. Once this information is captured and updated, my personal information will no longer be shared. I understand and agree that this may affect my treatment and I take responsibility for my decision.

13. **Access**

I have the right at any time to request details of any of my Personal Information that the practice holds, such request shall be made in writing to the Information Officer of the practice.

14. **Correction/Deletion**

I have the right to request the practice, to correct and/or delete my Personal Information that is inaccurate, irrelevant, excessive, out of date, incomplete, misleading. That any changes to my personal information must be communicated to the practice immediately so these changes can be updated on their systems. The practice will not be liable for inaccurate information on our systems as a result of my failure to update my personal information. I have the right to request the practice to destroy or to delete a record of my Personal Information that the practice is no longer authorised to retain in terms of any other law.

15. **Correction of Personal Information**

I acknowledge that whilst the practice will always use its best endeavors to ensure that my Personal Information is reliable, it is my responsibility to advise the practice of any changes to my Personal Information, as and when these changes may occur. The practice will not be liable for inaccurate information on their systems as a result of my failure to inform us of my updated personal information.

16. **Marketing**

The practice undertakes not to distribute my Personal Information to any third party for the purpose of marketing to me and/or third party's supplies or other products. Notwithstanding this, I agree the practice may process my Personal Information for providing me with practice's products/ and services. Should I not wish to receive these communications, I will provide the practice with a detailed opt out, listing the type of communication that I do not wish to receive addressed to the Information Officer's email.

17. I agree:

17.1 I will not hold the practice responsible for any loss

- (whether direct or indirect) that may arise from the use of my Personal Information;
- 17.2 I may not hold the practice responsible for any loss that may result from the incorrect use or disclosure of the information by any service provider to whom the practice has provided the Personal Information;
- 17.3 to give permission for the practice to give my medical scheme/ or administrator details of my diagnosis and clinical information required;
- 17.4 that I had an opportunity to read the terms and conditions (or they have been read to me), and I fully understand the consequences of these terms and conditions. I had sufficient opportunity to ask questions about this consent form and questions, answered to my satisfaction by the practice;
18. My consent is provided of my own free will without any undue influence from any person whatsoever.;
19. I confirm that I have permission of my dependant(s) to give their consent, where such consent has been provided and I indemnify the practice against this.

DEFINITIONS IN TERMS OF THIS CONSENT

“Data Subject” means me or my dependents to whom the personal information relates.

“Personal Information” means information relating to an identifiable, living, natural person, and where it is applicable, an identifiable, existing juristic person, including, but not limited to –

- a. information relating to the race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, national, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental health, wellbeing, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth of the person;
- b. information relating to the education or the medical, financial, criminal or employment history of the person;
- c. any identifying number, symbol, email address, physical address, telephone number, location information, online identifier or other particular assignment to the person;
- d. the biometric information of the person;
- e. the personal opinions, views or preferences of the person;
- f. correspondence sent by the person that is implicitly or explicitly of a private or confidential nature or further correspondence that would reveal the contents of the original correspondence;
- g. the views or opinions of another individual about the person; and
- h. the name of the person if it appears with other Personal Information relating to the person or if the disclosure of the name itself would reveal information about the person;

“processing” means any operation or activity or any set of operations, whether or not by automatic means, concerning Personal Information, including –

- a. the collection, receipt, recording, organization,

- collation, storage, updating or modification retrieval, alteration, consultation or use;
- b. dissemination by means of transmission, distribution or making available in any other form; or
- c. merging, linking, as well as restriction, degradation, erasure or destruction of information;

“record” means any recorded information –

- a. regardless of form or medium, including any of the following:
 - i. writing on any material;
 - ii. information produced, recorded or stored by means of any tape recorder, computer equipment, whether hardware or software or both, or other device, and any material subsequently derived from information so produced, recorded or stored;
 - iii. label, marking or other writing that identifies or describes anything of which it forms part, or to which it is attached by any means;
 - iv. book, map, plan, graph or drawing;
 - v. photograph, film, negative, tape or other device in which one or more visual images are embodied so as to be capable, with or without the aid of some other equipment, of being reproduced;
- b. in the possession or under the control of a responsible party;
- c. whether or not it was created by a responsible party; and
- d. regardless of when it came into existence;

“Regulator” means the Information Regulator established in terms of section 39;

“responsible party” means the practice identified above which determines the purpose of and means for processing Personal Information.