

Substitute Notice

Texas Health Physicians Group is committed to protecting our patients' information and takes significant steps to do so. We are informing the patients of John Pool, MD at Texas Health Heart and Lung Surgical Specialists about an issue involving some of that information that required written permission to use and disclose.

We became aware of this issue on 01/25/2022 which occurred after a photograph was taken of some patients for visits occurring during 2016 – 2019. Dr. Pool asked certain patients if he could take a picture with them before leaving the office. Once verbal agreement was given, the picture was taken and was later posted on the doctor's Facebook site and/or practice website. Under HIPAA, verbal agreement is not sufficient to post such information on social media – written patient authorization and consent is required to use the information and photograph. If you would like to give Dr. Pool written permission to use the photograph and information for these purposes, please call the below number to request the form.

The information in the incident included the following: the photograph, first and last name initials or first initial and last name, and type of procedure. Due to the type of information that was used, there are no additional steps that need to be taken at this time. Additional education has been provided to the employees on the privacy requirements to prevent this from reoccurring.

We take very seriously our role of safeguarding your personal information and regret any inconvenience to our patients. You may call 214-860-6540 during normal business hours with any questions you have.