WC-207 AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION
Instructions: This form shall not be filed with the Board, unless otherwise requested

TO:		
Print Name and Title		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code

RE: Employee / Patient		
Last Name	First Name	M.I.
SSN or Board Tracking #	Date of Injury	Birthdate

This document authorizes the release of only the medical information as provided below. The above-stated entity, facility or medical practitioner is authorized to release medical information to _____ in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws.

The information covered by this Authorization and Consent to Release is that authorized by O.C.G.A. §34-9-207 which reads as follows:

(a) When an employee has submitted a claim for workers' compensation benefits or is receiving payment of weekly income benefits or the employer has paid any medical expenses, that employee shall be deemed to have waived any privilege or confidentiality concerning any communications related to the claim or history or treatment of injury arising from the incident that the employee has had with any physician, including, but not limited to, communications with psychiatrists or psychologist. This waiver shall apply to the employee's medical history with respect to any condition or complaint reasonably related to the condition for which such employee claims compensation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when requested by the employer, any physician who has examined, treated, or tested the employee or consulted about the employee shall provide within a reasonable time and for a reasonable charge all information and records related to an examination, treatment, testing, or consultation concerning the employee.

(b) When an employee has submitted a claim for workers' compensation benefits or is receiving payment of weekly income benefits or the employer has paid any medical expenses, the employee, upon request, shall provide the employer with a signed release for medical records and information related to the claim or history or treatment of injury arising from the incident, including information related to the treatment for any mental condition or drug or alcohol abuse and to such employee's medical history with respect to any condition or complaint reasonably related to the condition for which such employee claims compensation. Said release shall designate the provider to whom the release is directed. If a hearing is pending, any release shall expire on the date of the hearing.

(c) If the employee refuses to provide a signed release for medical information as required by this Code section and, in the opinion of the Board, the refusal was not justified under the terms of this Code section, then such employee shall not be entitled to any compensation at any time during the continuance of such refusal or to a hearing on the issues of compensability arising from the claim.

Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 45 CFR 164.512(1) which reads as follows: *"The covered entity may disclose protected health information as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related illnesses or injury without regard to fault."* **Anyone who receives information under this authorization receives the same under all limitations set forth in Federal and State law regarding further dissemination of such information.**

This release shall expire in 180 days or upon written notice of revocation by the patient. If a hearing is pending, this release shall remain in effect until the hearing and shall expire on the date the hearing is held.

Employee / Patient Signature	Date

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AT 404-656-3818 OR 1-800-533-0682 OR VISIT http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov

WILLFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING OR DENYING BENEFITS IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO PENALTIES OF UP TO $10,000.00 PER VIOLATION (O.C.G.A. §34-9-18 AND §34-9-19).

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