



## Orthopedic & Sports Medicine Center

# Identity Theft Prevention

In an attempt to limit the risk to consumers of identify theft, the United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has created what has become known as the “Identity Theft Red Flag Rule.” The Red Flag Regulations and Guidelines provide financial institutions and creditors with a way to identify patterns, practices, and specific forms of activity that indicate the possibility of identity theft, defined as “a fraud committed or attempted using the identifying information of another without authority.” The FTC has stated specifically that physician offices are considered creditors and therefore must comply with the rule.

The rule requires us to have policies and procedures in place to identify, detect and respond to any pattern, practice or specific account or record of activity that indicates possible identity theft.

OSMC has always taken its responsibility of protecting the identity and confidential information of our patients very seriously. Our staff is required to undergo training on confidentiality and all have signed confidentiality agreements that hold them to the highest level of expectation. However, the Red Flag Rules require some additional steps to be taken on our part. For example, we require that all patients have a government-issued photo ID. We will scan your ID along with your insurance card and other documents needed to register you as a patient. We will also be required to take steps if we suspect that a case of identity theft has occurred.

We realize that the new rules represent an inconvenience to our patients. We hope you understand that this is a necessary task we must perform to be in compliance with the FTC’s requirements.

If you have any questions about OSMC’s policy regarding the Identity Theft Red Flag Rule, please let us know.

Updated November 17, 2009