

HARBIN
CLINIC  *what's possible*
July 29, 2011

D. Ben Warren, M.D.
Steven Spivey, M.D.
Holly Burman, WHNP
Barbara Snuggs, MSN/CNM
Susan Siniard, CNM
Rebecca Lowrey, CNM/ENP
Kimberly Millsap, CNM/WHNP

Mrs. April Blair
30 Fairfield Drive
Cartersville, GA 30120

Dear Mrs. Blair;

I was notified of a concern you expressed today to Donna Griffin, Medical Administration, about drug screens that were performed during your pregnancy. These screens are performed occasionally during obstetrical care to assist us in providing the best care possible for the mother and infant. They are not routinely performed through chain of custody as we use them only for our information in ordering medications and treatment that does not interact badly with other substances.

Our practice has been to this point, that a urine screen may be performed after a routine urinalysis and the patient counseled for positive results. Screens were performed on your urine 5-9-11 and 7-8-11, and both were returned positive for methamphetamines. Unfortunately, the results did not go back to the ordering provider, and were not discussed with you. This eliminated your opportunity to respond.

Due to the process we used at the time these results cannot be verified and might have resulted in an erroneous report.

The infant's Apgar scores at the time of delivery were 8 and 9 which were excellent and showed no distress. There is also no notation of a concern about addiction related to the infant in the hospital chart. I understand your daughter is doing well.

I apologize for any concern or inconvenience that our charting may have caused you. Please be assured that we have changed the process to avoid this situation in the future and will be glad to speak to a representative from the Department of Family and Children's Services on your behalf if you wish. If so, please have them contact me at 770-382-5611.

Sincerely,



D. Ben Warren, MD

PH | 770-382-5611 FAX | 770-382-8381 | 150 Gentilly Blvd. | Cartersville, GA 30120

Wendy Saltzman

From: Dr. Diaz, Alfonso [ADiaz@HarbinClinic.com]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 11:49 AM
To: Wendy Saltzman
Subject: Harbin Clinic Statement Regarding Our Procedures

Harbin Clinic

Harbin Clinic has a legal and moral obligation to maintain the privacy of its patient's medical information. Harbin Clinic cannot discuss the particular treatment provided to a patient or even confirm that someone is a patient without a written authorization from the patient.

Harbin Clinic was contacted by this reporter regarding someone claiming to be a patient at one of its facilities. In accordance with the law and its internal policy, Harbin Clinic provided the reporter with an authorization for a person to sign, which would permit Harbin Clinic to confirm that someone was its patient and to discuss the details of that patient's treatment. It is Harbin Clinic's understanding that the reporter was unable to obtain such written authorization. Accordingly, nothing Harbin Clinic has said to this reporter should in any way be construed as confirmation that any person was or is a patient of Harbin Clinic or that anything stated applies to a particular patient.

Generally, it is the policy of all Harbin Clinic departments to follow the law as it relates to referring matters to the Department of Family and Children Services or DFACS. Under Georgia law, a healthcare provider is required to report child abuse to DFACS when they have reasonable cause to believe it exists. Such a determination is made on a case-by-case basis, depending on how a person presents. Georgia law does not set forth specific criteria and instead, such assessments are left to the provider assessing the person at the time and based on the information available to them. Harbin Clinic makes every effort to follow the law in good faith. Once a referral is made, it then falls on DFACS to investigate and determine whether there is abuse or neglect.

Harbin Clinic generally follows the same basic framework when deciding whether to test a particular patient for illicit drug use. In some situations, Harbin Clinic will submit a patient's urine and/or blood samples for drug testing when required by law or when there is reasonable cause to believe that the patient may be using illicit substances. At all times, Harbin Clinic keeps patient safety at the forefront of its practices, as drug testing helps guide therapeutic decisions.

Alfonso Diaz, M.D. F.A.C.C.
Medical Director

Harbin Clinic | Medical Administration
1825 Martha Berry Blvd., Rome, GA 30165
Phone 706.236.6372 Fax 706.236.6311 Cell 706.346.0784
adiaz@harbinclinic.com

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"If you want to go quickly go alone, if you want to go far go together." (African Proverb)