

Altheda Medical Center Patient Dismissal Policy & Agreement

At Altheda Medical Center, we are committed to providing comprehensive, high-quality healthcare in a professional and respectful environment. However, there may be circumstances where the provider-patient relationship must be discontinued. This document outlines our policy on patient dismissal, legal considerations, and expectations for continued care.

1. Reasons for Dismissal

Patients may be dismissed from Altheda Medical Center for the following reasons:

1. Repeated Noncompliance
 - a. Failure to follow medical advice, treatment plans, or attend scheduled appointments.
2. Medication Misuse or Seeking Behavior
 - a. Attempts to obtain controlled substances inappropriately, violation of medication agreements, or prescription forgery.
3. Disruptive or Inappropriate Behavior
 - a. Verbal abuse, threats, harassment, or actions that create a hostile environment for staff or other patients.
4. Criminal or Fraudulent Activity
 - a. Engaging in prescription fraud, theft, or other illegal activities within the practice.
5. Failure to Meet Financial Obligations
 - a. Nonpayment for services without making reasonable arrangements for payment.

2. Legal Considerations & Patient Rights

Altheda Medical Center follows Pennsylvania state laws and federal regulations regarding patient dismissals. Key considerations include:

- Patients will receive a **written termination notice**, clearly stating the effective date of dismissal, as required by Pennsylvania law.
- Under Pennsylvania law and guidance from the American Medical Association (AMA), a practice must provide at least **30 days of emergency medical care** after notifying a patient of dismissal to prevent allegations of patient abandonment (42 U.S.C. § 1395dd; Pennsylvania State Medical Board).
- **Patients have the right to request a copy of their medical records**, which will be transferred to their new provider upon written authorization (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.524).

- Patients cannot be dismissed for reasons related to **race, sex, gender identity, disability, religion, national origin, or other protected statuses**, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 2000d; 42 U.S.C. § 12101).
- Immediate termination without a 30-day notice may occur if a patient engages in **threats of violence, illegal activities, or behavior that jeopardizes the safety of others**

3. Dismissal Process

If dismissal is necessary, Altheda Medical Center follows this procedure:

1. The patient's noncompliance, disruptive behavior, or violations will be documented in their medical record.
2. The practice will issue a **formal written notification of dismissal** via email and/or certified mail with a return receipt requested.
3. The patient will be provided with **30 days to secure a new healthcare provider** and may **continue to receive emergency care during this period**.
4. The patient has the right to request the transfer of their medical records to their new provider.