

# HIPAA PRIVACY NOTICE

## Your information. Your rights. Our responsibilities.

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

## Your rights

You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record
- Request amendment of your paper or electronic medical record
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

## Your choices

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Tell family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Include you in a hospital directory
- Provide mental health care
- Market our services and sell your information
- Raise funds

## Our uses and disclosures

We may use and share your information as we:

- Treat you
- Run our organization
- Bill for your services
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests
- Work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

## Your rights

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record:

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

## Ask us to correct your medical record or request special privacy protection:

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete; or request special privacy protection. Ask us how to do this.

- We may say "no" to your request, but we'll provide justification in writing within 60 days.

## Request confidential communications:

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will say "yes" to all reasonable requests.

## Ask us to limit what we use or share:

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment or our operations. We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say "no" if it would affect your care.
- If you pay for a service or healthcare item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say "yes" unless a law requires us to share that information.

## Right to an accounting of disclosures — get a list of those with whom we've shared information:

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we've shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment and healthcare operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We'll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

## Get a copy of this privacy notice:

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

## Choose someone to act for you:

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

## File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated:

- If you feel we have violated your rights, please call the main hospital line and request to speak to a patient advocate.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/).
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

## Your choices

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends or others involved in your care

- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- Include your information in a hospital directory

*If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we will share your information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.*

In these cases, we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes

## Our uses and disclosures

### How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways:

- Treat you — We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.
- Run our organization — We can use and share your health information to run our practice, manage your treatment and care, and contact you when necessary.
- Bill for your services — We will use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

### How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways — usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information, visit: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

### Help with public health and safety issues

We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

- Preventing disease
- Helping with product recalls
- Reporting adverse reactions to medications
- Reporting suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence
- Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety
- Providing proof of immunization to your or your child's school at your request (with signed release of information) to meet the school's requirement

### Do research

We can use or share your information for health research.

### Comply with the law

We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

## Respond to organ and tissue donation requests

We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.

## Work with a medical examiner or funeral director

We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner or funeral director upon the death of an individual.

## Address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions, such as military, national security and presidential protective services

## Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

## Change of ownership

In the event that this hospital is sold, or merged with another organization, your health information / record will become the property of the new owner, although you will maintain the right to request copies of your health information be transferred to another physician or healthcare provider.

## Our responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you provide permission in writing. If you provide permission, you may change your mind at any time with a written notice.

For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html).

## Changes to the terms of this notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available on our website and in our office upon request.