

HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act

Notice of Privacy Practices:

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.

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health facts and to provide you with the notice of our legal duties and privacy practices. We must follow the terms of the notice in effect right now, but we reserve the right to change the terms. If there is a change, we will provide you with a written, revised notice upon request.

As a client of ours, facts about you must be used and disclosed to other parties for treatment, payment and health care operations. These uses and disclosures require your consent, and include, but are not limited to the following information:

- A release of information contained in financial and or medical records;
- Diseases spread person to person, such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);
- Drug and or alcohol abuse;
- Psychiatric diagnosis and treatment records;
- Laboratory test results;
- Medical history;
- Treatment progress;
- Data from the OASIS data set (home health);
- Any other related facts.

We may release the above to:

1. Your insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, or any other person who will pay your bill for services or who will process your bill for services in order for us to receive payment;
2. Any person from a program or an insurance company, who performs billing, quality and risk management tasks, such as insurance auditors and state Risk Management;
3. Any hospital, nursing home, or other health care facility where you may have testing done or to which you may be admitted;
4. Any assisted living or personal care facility where you live;
5. Any doctor providing your care;
6. Family members and other people who are part of your plan for service, in such programs as CSHP, EPSDT, home health, hospice, etc.;
7. State and or Federal agencies acting on behalf of programs, Medicare and or Medicaid, including state surveyors or auditors for programs such as CSHP, EPSDT, WIC, STD/HIV, home health, hospice, PCS, etc.;
8. Other health care people to start treatment.

We may contact you to:

1. Provide appointment reminders or news about other health programs we provide;
2. Raise funds or donate items for our business.

We are allowed to use or disclose facts about you without consent in the following situations:

1. In emergency treatment situations, if we try to obtain consent as soon as possible after treatment;
2. Where significant barriers to communicating with you exist and we determine that the consent is clearly inferred from the situation;

3. Where we are required by law to provide treatment and we are unable to obtain consent;
4. Where the use or disclosure is required by law;
5. For certain public health activities, such as reporting births, deaths, injuries, diseases, etc.;
6. Where we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence to a government agency authorized to receive abuse, neglect or domestic violence reports;
7. Health care oversight activities;
8. Certain legal administrative proceedings;
9. Certain law enforcement purposes;
10. To coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors in certain situations (home health, hospice, etc);
11. For organ, eye or tissue donation purposes (home health, hospice, etc.);
12. For certain research purposes;
13. To avoid a serious threat to health and safety;
14. For specialized government functions, including military and veterans' activities, national security and intelligence activities, protective services for the President and others, medical suitability determinations, correctional institution and custodial situations;
15. For Workers' Compensation purposes.

We are allowed to use or disclose facts about you without consent or authorization provided you are informed in advance and given the chance to agree to, restrict or forbid the disclosure in the following situations:

1. The use of a directory of people served by us (clinic schedules, patient schedules);
2. To a family member, friend or other person you choose, who may assist in your care or payment for care.

Other uses and disclosures will be made only with your written approval. That approval may be withdrawn in writing at any time, except in limited situations.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right, subject to certain conditions, to:

1. Request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of facts about you by filling out our Request form. However, we are not required to agree to the requested restrictions.
2. Receive confidential communication of protected health data by giving us another address or means of receiving health data.
3. Inspect and copy protected health data by filling out our request form.
4. Amend protected health data by filling out our form.
5. Receive a list of disclosures made of your protected health data by filling out our request form.
6. Obtain a paper copy of this notice upon request, if you agreed to receive this notice by e-mail, fax, or website.

COMPLAINTS

You may complain to us and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if you believe that your privacy rights have been violated. There will be no retaliation against you for filing a complaint. The complaint must be filed in writing with us and must state the specific incident(s) including the date, what happened and details of the incident.

**For details about filing a complaint with us, contact:
HIPAA Compliance Officer, (208) 233-9080.**