



Notice of Privacy Practices

Your Rights

Your health record contains personal information about you and your health. 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 a copy of your medical record

- You can ask to see or get a paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information upon request. If you are here for a VA disability exam and wish to have a copy of your results, you will need to request a copy through the VA.

Ask us to correct your medical record

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we'll tell you why 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 health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share what 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.

Get a list of those with whom we have shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we have shared your health information, whom we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make).

Get a copy of this privacy notice

- You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time.

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 have been violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us.
- 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/.
- 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.

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.

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

- Marketing purposes
- Sales of your information

Our Uses and Disclosures

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 involved in your care for the purpose of providing, coordinating, or managing your health care treatment and related services.

Run our organization

- We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

Bill for your services

- We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

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, see 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 suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
- Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

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 the federal privacy law.

Address worker's compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests

We can use or share health information about you:

- For worker's 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 court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

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 if requested.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here, unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.
- For more information see 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. You can request a new copy of this notice by mail or provide one to you at your next appointment.