



## Notice of Privacy Practices

---

### 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

**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 health and claims records:

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records 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 and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

##### Ask us to correct health and claims records:

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say “no” to your request but we will tell you why in writing within 60 days.

##### Request confidential communications:

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way, such as by a different phone number or different mailing address.
- We will consider all reasonable requests and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

##### 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.

##### 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 for up to six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We will provide one accounting a year 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 promptly provide you with a paper copy.

##### 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 the authority and can act for you before we take any action.

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

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us at 1.800.624.6961 (TTY: 711). You can also contact us through our website at healthplan.org.
- 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 by 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 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 payment for your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation

*If you are not able to tell us your preference, we may go ahead and share 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 and safety.*

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

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information

### **Our Uses and Disclosures**

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

We can use or share your health information in the following ways.

#### **Help manage the health care treatment you receive:**

- We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.
- We can use and share your health information to coordinate your care.

*Example: A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.*

*Example: We may participate in health information exchanges for the purpose of coordinating your care.*

#### **Run our organization:**

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.
- We may contract with individuals and entities called business associates to perform various functions on our behalf or to provide services to you.
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long-term care plans.

*Example: We use health information about you to develop better services for you.*

*Example: We contract with a business associate to help us manage your health plan's prescription benefits.*

#### **Pay for your health services:**

We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.

*Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.*



### **Administer your plan:**

We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

*Example: Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.*

### **How else can we 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.

### **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

### **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 we are complying with federal privacy law.

### **Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director:**

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

### **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.

### **State or other federal laws:**

We will follow other laws if they have greater limits on how we disclose your information. For example, we do not share substance use treatment records unless permitted by federal law.

### **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.
- We will not use or share information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. You may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

### **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 upon request and on our website. We will mail a copy of the



updated notice to you in our next annual mailing.

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)

## Effective date

This Notice of Privacy Practices became effective April 2003 and is amended effective January 2024.

Our privacy official may be contacted at **1.800.624.6961, ext. 7693** or [jmedley@healthplan.org](mailto:jmedley@healthplan.org). Hearing impaired can call **711**.

