

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Privacy Officer
Baltimore Medical System
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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.**

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

Your Rights

- **Get a copy of your health and claims records:**
 - You can ask to see or obtain an electronic or paper copy of your medical records. Ask us how to do this.
 - We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 14 days of your request.
 - We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.
- **Ask us to correct your medical record:**
 - You can ask us to correct your health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
 - We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days of your request.
- **Request confidential communication:**
 - You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (such as, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different 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 the information we 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.
 - We have chosen to participate in the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our patients, Inc. (CRISP), a statewide health information exchange. As permitted by law, your health information will be shared with this exchange in order to provider faster access, better coordination of care and assist providers and public health officials in making more informed decisions. You may “opt-out” and disable all access to your health information available through CRISP by calling 1-877-952-7477 or completing and submitting an Opt-Out form to CRISP by mail, fax or through their website at www.crisphealth.org.
- **Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared your 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 health care 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. 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 believe your privacy rights have been violated:**
 - You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1.
 - 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.

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 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. The new notice will be available on our web site. Upon request, we will give or mail a copy to you.

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 payment for your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- Contact you for fundraising efforts

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and 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

- In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

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 professionals who are treating you.

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

- **Run our organization:**

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

Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.

- **Bill 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.

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 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 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 that we're 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 service

- **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.