



Notice of Privacy Practices of Shenandoah Medical Center

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

This Notice applies to Shenandoah Medical Center Hospital (the "Hospital") and all of its programs, departments and subsidiaries, including its rural health clinics, Shenandoah Ambulance Service, and Medical staff.

Shenandoah Medical Center is committed to protecting the privacy of your health information. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information (PHI) and to provide you with notice of our legal duties, privacy practices and your rights with respect to your medical information. Your medical information includes your individually identifiable medical, insurance, demographic and medical payment information. For example, it includes information about your diagnosis, medications, insurance status and policy number, medical claims history, address, and social security number.

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF INFORMATION WITHOUT YOUR AUTHORIZATION

The following are the types of uses and disclosures we may make of your medical information without your permission. Where State or federal law restricts one of the described uses or disclosures, we follow the requirements of such State or federal law. These are general descriptions only. They do not cover every example of disclosure within a category.

Treatment. We will use and disclose your medical information for treatment. For example, we may disclose your medical information to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel, including people outside our facilities, who are involved in your medical care and who need the information to provide you with medical care.

Payment. We will use and disclose your medical information for payment purposes. For example, we may disclose your medical information to your health plan so that they will pay for your treatment.

Operations. We may use and disclose your medical information for purposes of our health care operations. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care and to operate and manage our office. For example, we may use and disclose your medical information in order to make sure the care you receive is of the highest quality.

Business Associates. We will disclose your medical information to our business associates and allow them to create, use and disclose your medical information to perform their services for us.

Hospital Directory. We may include your name, location in the facility, and religious affiliation in a facility directory. This information may be provided to members of the clergy and, except for religious affiliation, to other people who ask for you by name. We will not include your information in the facility directory if you object or if we are prohibited by State or federal law.

Family, Friends or Others. If any of these individuals are involved in your care or payment for care, we may also disclose such medical information as is directly relevant to their involvement. We will only release this information if you agree and sign a written release of information, are given the opportunity to object and do not, or if in our professional judgment, it would be in your best interest to allow the person to receive the information or act on your behalf. You may choose to allow a family member to pick up your prescriptions, medical supplies or X-rays without the need for a written release. We may also disclose your information to an entity assisting in disaster relief efforts so that your family or individual responsible for your care may be notified of your location and condition.

Public Health Activities. We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities may include disclosures:

- To a public health authority authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability;
- To FDA-regulated entities for purposes of monitoring or reporting the quality, safety or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products;
- To notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; and

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, internal and external audits, investigations, inspections and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs and compliance with civil rights laws.

Law Enforcement/ Judicial Proceedings. We may release certain medical information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official:

- As required by law, including reporting certain wounds and physical injuries;
- In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
- To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person;
- If you are the victim of a crime if we obtain your agreement or, under certain limited circumstances, if we are unable to obtain your agreement;
- To alert authorities of a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
- In certain circumstances, we may disclose medical information to appropriate government authorities regarding victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence;
- Information we believe is evidence of criminal conduct occurring on our premises; and
- In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.

Military and Veterans. If applicable, we may disclose information for military or national security purposes.

Inmates. If you are an inmate, we may disclose information to correctional institutions.

Serious Threat to Health or Safety. Covered entities may disclose protected health information that they believe is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to a person or the public, when such disclosure is made to someone they believe can prevent or lessen the threat (including the target of the threat).

Deceased Individuals. We are required to apply safeguards to protect your medical information for 50 years following your death. Following your death we may disclose medical information to a coroner, medical examiner or funeral director as necessary for them to carry out their duties and to a personal representative (for example, the executor of your estate). We may also release your medical information to a family member or other person who acted as personal representative or was involved in your care or payment for care before your death, if relevant to such person's involvement, unless you have expressed a contrary preference.

Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation: We may release medical information to organ, eye or tissue procurement, transplantation or banking organizations or entities as necessary to facilitate organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

Workers' Compensation: We may release medical information about you as authorized by law for workers' compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.



Health Information Exchange. We participate in one or more electronic health information exchanges which permits us to electronically exchange medical information about you with other participating providers (for example, doctors and hospitals) and health plans and their business associates.

USES AND DISCLOSURES REQUIRING YOUR AUTHORIZATION

A signed release of information is required prior to the utilization of your Medical Records for the use of marketing, the sale of your medical information, Psychotherapy notes, substance use disorder treatment records, HIV/AIDS status (except as it pertains to required Public Health reporting), and all other releases/disclosures not mentioned above. Release of information to family members, friends, neighbors, ect will not be provided without written permission, unless you (the patient) is unable to communicate and medically necessary decisions need to be made. This instance next of kin would be communicated to regarding your Medical information.

If you provide authorization, you may revoke it at any time by giving us notice in accordance with our authorization policy and the instructions in our authorization form. Your revocation will not be effective for uses and disclosures made in reliance on your prior authorization.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Request for Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations or to persons involved in your care. We are not required to agree to your request, with one exception explained in the next paragraph, and we will notify you if we are unable to agree to your request.

We are required to agree to your request that we not disclose certain health information to your health plan for payment or health care operations purposes, as long as law does not otherwise require the disclosure. If we later receive an Authorization from you dated after the date of your requested restriction which authorizes us to disclose all of your records to your health plan, we will assume you have withdrawn your request for restriction.

Several different covered entities listed at the start of this Notice use this Notice. You must make a separate request to each covered entity from whom you will receive services that are involved in your request for any type of restriction.

Confidential Communications. The right to receive confidential communications of protected health information. You may request, and we will accommodate reasonable requests, to receive communications of protected health information from the covered health care provider by alternative means or at alternative locations.

Access to Medical Information. You may inspect and copy much of the medical information we maintain about you, with some exceptions. You may obtain a paper copy. If we maintain the medical information electronically in one or more designated record sets and you ask for an electronic copy, we will provide the information to you in the form and format you request, if it is readily producible. If we cannot readily produce the record in the form and format you request, we will produce it in another readable electronic form we both agree to. We may charge a cost-based fee for producing copies or, if you request one, a summary. If you direct us to transmit your medical information to another person, we will do so, provided your signed, written direction clearly designates the recipient and location for delivery.



Amendment. You may request that we amend certain medical information that we keep in your records. We are not required to make all requested amendments, but will give each request careful consideration. If we deny your request, we will provide you with a written explanation of the reasons and your rights.

Accounting. You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your medical information made by us or our business associates for the six years prior to your request. Your right to an accounting does not include disclosures for treatment, payment and health care operations and certain other types of disclosures.

Notification in the Case of Breach. We are required by law to notify you of a breach of your unsecured medical information. We will provide such notification to you without unreasonable delay but in no case later than 60 days after we discover the breach.

How to Exercise These Rights. All requests to exercise these rights must be in writing. We will respond to your request on a timely basis in accordance with our written policies and as required by law. By contacting our Privacy Officer at the contact information listed below.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this notice at any time. Updated versions will be posted in our facility, available on our website, and available upon request.

COMPLAINTS

If you have concerns about any of our privacy practices or believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the Hospital using the contact information at the end of this Notice. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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