

Unity Healthcare

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.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact our Privacy Officer.

This Notice of Privacy Practices describes how we may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. It also describes your rights to access and control your protected health information. “Protected health information” is information about you, including demographic information, that may identify you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services.

We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices. We may change the terms of our notice at any time. The new notice will be effective for all protected health information that we maintain both before and after the change. Upon your request, we will provide you with any revised Notice of Privacy Practices by calling the office and requesting that a revised copy be sent to you in the mail or asking for one at the time of your next appointment.

1. Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information

You will be asked by your physician to sign this Notice of Privacy Practices. We will make a good faith effort to obtain a written acknowledgement that you received this Notice of Privacy Practices for Protected Health Information the first time we provide services to you after April 14, 2003 or as soon as reasonably practicable under the circumstances. Your protected health information may be used and disclosed by your physician, our office staff and others outside of our office that are involved in your care and treatment for the purpose of providing health care services to you. Your protected health information may also be used and disclosed to obtain payment for your health care bills and to support the operation of the physician’s practice.

Following are examples of the types of uses and disclosures of your protected health care information that the physician’s office is permitted to make. These examples are not meant to be exhaustive, but to describe the types of uses and disclosures that may be made by our office.

Treatment. We will use and disclose your protected health information to provide, coordinate or manage your health care and any related services. This includes the coordination or management of your health care with a third party that may need access to your protected health information. For example, we would disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to a home health agency that provides care to you. We will also disclose protected health information to other physicians who may be treating you. For example, your protected health information may be provided to a physician to whom you have been referred to ensure that the physician has the necessary information to diagnose or treat you.

In addition, we may disclose your protected health information from time-to-time to another physician or health care provider (e.g., a specialist or laboratory, including any ancillary services affiliated with Unity) who, at the request of your physician, becomes involved in your care by providing assistance with your health care diagnosis or treatment to your physician.

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Payment. Your protected health information will be used, as needed, to obtain payment for your health care services. This may include certain activities that your health insurance plan may undertake before it approves or pays for the health care services we recommend for you such as: making a determination of eligibility or coverage for insurance benefits, reviewing services provided to you for medical necessity and undertaking utilization review activities. For example, obtaining approval for a hospital stay may require that your relevant protected health information be disclosed to the health plan to obtain approval for the hospital admission.

Healthcare Operations. We may use or disclose, as needed, your protected health information in order to support the business activities of your physician's practice. These activities include, but are not limited to, quality assessment activities, employee review activities, training of medical students, licensing, and conducting or arranging for other business activities.

For example, we may disclose your protected health information to medical school students that see patients at our office. In addition, we may use a sign-in sheet at the registration desk where you will be asked to sign your name and indicate your physician. We may also call you by name in the waiting room when your physician is ready to see you. We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to contact you to remind you of your appointment.

We will share your protected health information with third party "business associates" that perform various activities (e.g., billing, transcription services) for the practice. Whenever an arrangement between our office and a business associate involves the use or disclosure of your protected health information, we will have a written contract that contains terms that will protect the privacy of your protected health information.

We may use or disclose your protected health information, as necessary, to provide you with information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. We may also use and disclose your protected health information for other marketing activities. For example, your name and address may be used to send you a newsletter about our practice and the services we offer. We may also send you information about products or services that we believe may be beneficial to you. You may contact our Privacy Officer to request that these materials not be sent to you.

We may use or disclose your demographic information and the dates that you received treatment from your physician, as necessary, in order to contact you for fundraising activities supported by our office. If you do not want to receive these materials, please contact our Privacy Officer and request that these fundraising materials not be sent to you.

Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Based Upon Your Written Authorization

Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information will be made only with your written authorization, unless otherwise permitted or required by law as described below. You may revoke this authorization, at any time, in writing, except to the extent that your physician or the physician's practice has taken an action in reliance on the use or disclosure indicated in the authorization.

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Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures that may be made without Your Authorization or Opportunity to Object

We may use and disclose your protected health information in the following instances. You have the opportunity to agree or object to the use or disclosure of all or part of your protected health information. If you are not present or able to agree or object to the use or disclosure of the protected health information, then your physician may, using professional judgment, determine whether the disclosure is in your best interest. In this case, only the protected health information that is relevant to your health care will be disclosed.

Facility Directories. Unless you object, we will use and disclose in our facility directory your name, the location at which you are receiving care, your condition (in general terms), and your religious affiliation. All of this information, except religious affiliation, will be disclosed to people that ask for you by name. Members of the clergy will be told your religious affiliation.

Others Involved in Your Healthcare. Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend or any other person you identify, your protected health information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your health care. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment. We may use or disclose protected health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or any other person that is responsible for your care of your location, general condition or death. Finally, we may use or disclose your protected health information to an authorized public or private entity to assist in disaster relief efforts and to coordinate uses and disclosures to family or other individuals involved in your health care.

Emergencies. We may use or disclose your protected health information in an emergency treatment situation. If this happens, your physician shall try to obtain your acknowledgement of our Privacy Practices as soon as reasonably practicable after the delivery of treatment. If your physician or another physician in the practice is required by law to treat you and the physician has attempted to obtain your acknowledgement, but is unable, he or she may still use or disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment, and health care operations.

Communication Barriers. We may use and disclose your protected health information if your physician or another physician in the practice attempts to obtain an acknowledgement of our Privacy Practices from you, but is unable to do so due to substantial communication barriers.

Other Permitted and Required Uses and Disclosures that may be made without Your Consent, Authorization or Opportunity to Object

We may use or disclose your protected health information in the following situations without your acknowledgement or authorization. These situations include:

Required By Law. We may use or disclose your protected health information to the extent that the use or disclosure is required by law. The use or disclosure will be made in compliance with the law and will be limited to the relevant requirements of the law. You will be notified, as required by law, of any such uses or disclosures.

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Public Health. We may disclose your protected health information for public health activities and purposes to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information. The disclosure will be made for the purpose of controlling disease, injury or disability. We may also disclose your protected health information, if directed by the public health authority, to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

Communicable Diseases. We may disclose your protected health information, if authorized by law, to a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading the disease or condition.

Health Oversight. We may disclose protected health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as audits, investigations, and inspections. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee the health care system, government benefit programs, other government regulatory programs and civil rights laws.

Abuse or Neglect. We may disclose your protected health information to a public health authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. In addition, we may disclose your protected health information if we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence to the governmental entity or agency authorized to receive such information. In this case, the disclosure will be made consistent with the requirements of applicable federal and state laws.

Food and Drug Administration. We may disclose your protected health information to a person or company required by the Food and Drug Administration to report adverse events, product defects or problems, biologic product deviations; track products; to enable product recalls; to make repairs or replacements; or to conduct post marketing surveillance, as required.

Legal Proceedings. We may disclose protected health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding, in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal (to the extent such disclosure is expressly authorized), in certain conditions in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement. We may also disclose protected health information, so long as applicable legal requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes. These law enforcement purposes include: (1) legal processes and otherwise required by law, (2) limited information requests for identification and location purposes, (3) pertaining to victims of a crime, (4) suspicion that death has occurred as a result of criminal conduct, (5) in the event that a crime occurs on the premises of the practice, and (6) medical emergency (not on the practice's premises) and it is likely that a crime has occurred.

Coroners, Funeral Directors, and Organ Donation. We may disclose protected health information to a coroner or medical examiner for identification purposes, determining cause of death or for the coroner or medical examiner to perform other duties authorized by law. We may also disclose protected health information to a funeral director, as authorized by law, in order to permit the funeral director to carry out his/her duties. We may disclose such information in reasonable anticipation of death. Protected health information may be used and disclosed for cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes.

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Research. We may disclose your protected health information to researchers when their research has been approved by an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your protected health information.

Criminal Activity. Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, we may disclose your protected health information if we believe that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. We may also disclose protected health information if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

Military Activity and National Security. When the appropriate conditions apply, we may use or disclose protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel: (1) for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities; (2) for the purpose of a determination by the Department of Veterans Affairs of your eligibility for benefits; or (3) to foreign military authority if you are a member of that foreign military services. We may also disclose your protected health information to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities, including for the provision of protective services to the President or others legally authorized.

Workers' Compensation. Your protected health information may be disclosed by us as authorized to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar legally established programs.

Inmates. We may use or disclose your protected health information if you are an inmate of a correctional facility and your physician created or received your protected health information in the course of providing care to you.

Required Uses and Disclosures. Under the law, we must make disclosures to you and when required by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate or determine our compliance with the requirements of federal regulations that protect the privacy of your protected health information.

2. Your Rights

Following is a statement of your rights with respect to your protected health information and a brief description of how you may exercise these rights.

You have the right to inspect and copy your protected health information. This means you may inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about you that is contained in a designated record set for as long as we maintain the protected health information. A "designated record set" contains medical and billing records and any other records that your physician and the practice uses for making decisions about you.

Under federal law, however; you may not inspect or copy the following records: psychotherapy notes; information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding; and protected health information that is subject to law that prohibits access to protected health information. Depending on the circumstances, a decision to deny access may be reviewed. In some circumstances, you may have a right to have this decision reviewed. Please contact our Privacy Officer if you have questions about access to your medical record.

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You have the right to request a restriction of your protected health information. This means you may ask us not to use or disclose any part of your protected health information for the purposes of treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You may also request that any part of your protected health information not be disclosed to family members or friends who may be involved in your care or for notification purposes as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Your request must state the specific restriction requested and to whom you want the restriction to apply.

Your physician is not required to agree to a restriction that you may request. If a physician believes it is in your best interest to permit use and disclosure of your protected health information, your protected health information will not be restricted. If your physician does agree to the requested restriction, we may not use or disclose your protected health information in violation of that restriction unless it is needed to provide emergency treatment. With this in mind, please discuss any restriction you wish to request with your physician. You may request a restriction by submitting a written request to our Privacy Officer.

You have the right to request to receive confidential communications from us by alternative means or at an alternative location. We will accommodate reasonable requests. We may also condition this accommodation by asking you for information as to how payment will be handled or specification of an alternative address or other method of contact. We will not request an explanation from you as to the basis for the request. Please make this request in writing to our Privacy Officer.

You may have the right to have your physician amend your protected health information. This means you may request an amendment of protected health information about you in a designated record set for as long as we maintain this information. In certain cases, we may deny your request for an amendment. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of any such rebuttal. Please contact our Privacy Officer if you have questions about amending your medical record.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures we have made, if any, of your protected health information. This right applies to disclosures for purposes other than treatment, payment or healthcare operations and valid authorizations or incidental disclosures as described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. It excludes disclosures we may have made to you, for a facility directory, to family members or friends involved in your care, or for notification purposes. You have the right to receive specific information regarding these disclosures that occurred after April 14, 2003. You may request a shorter timeframe. The right to receive this information is subject to certain exceptions, restrictions and limitations.

You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this notice from us, upon request, even if you have agreed to accept this notice electronically.

3. Complaints

You may complain to us or to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated by us. You may file a complaint with us by notifying our Privacy Contact of your complaint. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

You may contact our Privacy Officer at 765-447-8133 for further information about the complaint process.

This notice was published and becomes effective on April 14, 2003.

This notice was reviewed on October 1, 2008.

Unity Healthcare

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice of Privacy Practices

I have received the Practice's Notice of Privacy Practices and understand that my protected health information may be used by the Practice as described in the notice.

Patient Name: _____

Patient Signature: _____ Date: _____

**UNITY HEALTHCARE
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OR DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED
HEALTH INFORMATION**

I, _____ (name of patient),
_____ (address of patient),

hereby authorize UNITY Healthcare to (check the following that apply):

use the following protected health information, and/or
 disclose the following health information to: _____

(Specifically describe the information to be used or disclosed, including, but not limited to, meaningful descriptors, such as date of service, type of service provided, level of detail to be released, origin of information, etc.)

This protected health information is being used or disclosed for the following purposes:

(List specific purposes above.)

This authorization shall be in force and effect until _____
(SPECIFY DATE OR EVENT THAT RELATES TO THE PATIENT OR THE PURPOSE OF THE USE OR DISCLOSURE) at which time this authorization to use or disclose this protected health information expires.

I understand that I have the right to revoke this authorization, in writing, at any time by sending such written notification to our Privacy Officer at UNITY Healthcare. I understand that a revocation is not effective to the extent that UNITY Healthcare has relied on the use or disclosure of the protected health information.

I understand that information used or disclosed pursuant to this authorization may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by federal or state law.

UNITY Healthcare will not condition my treatment, payment, enrollment in a health plan or eligibility for benefits (if applicable) on whether I provide authorization for the requested use or disclosure.

**UNITY HEALTHCARE
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OR DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED
HEALTH INFORMATION**

I understand that I have the right to:

- Inspect or copy the protected health information to be used or disclosed as permitted under federal law (or state law to the extent the state law provides greater access rights).
- Refuse to sign this authorization.
- Receive a signed copy of this authorization.

Signature of Patient or Personal Representative

Date

Name of Patient or Personal Representative

Description of Personal Representative's Authority

UNITY HEALTHCARE
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION
FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES THAT INCLUDE TREATMENT

I, _____ (name of patient),
_____ (address of patient),

hereby authorize UNITY Healthcare to:

- Use the following protected health information, and/or
 Disclose the following information to REQUESTING ENTITY:

(Specifically describe the information to be used or disclosed, including, but not limited to, meaningful descriptors, such as date of service, type of service provided, level of detail to be released, origin of information, etc.)

This protected health information is being used or disclosed for the following purposes:

(List specific purposes above.)

In addition, this protected health information may be used to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations of UNITY Healthcare in the following manner:

(Describe how the protected health information will be used to carry out treatment, payment and health care operation purposes.)

We will *not* make the following disclosures that may be permitted under federal law:

This authorization shall be in force and effect until _____
(SPECIFY DATE OR EVENT THAT RELATES TO THE PATIENT OR THE PURPOSE OF THE USE OR DISCLOSURE) at which time this authorization to use or disclose this protected health information expires.

UNITY HEALTHCARE
AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OR DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION
FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES THAT INCLUDE TREATMENT

I understand that I have the right to revoke this authorization, in writing, at any time by sending such written notification to our Privacy Officer at UNITY Healthcare. I understand that a revocation is not effective to the extent that UNITY Healthcare has relied on the use or disclosure of the protected health information.

I understand that information used or disclosed pursuant to this authorization may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by federal or state law.

UNITY Healthcare will not condition my treatment, payment, enrollment in a health plan or eligibility for benefits (if applicable) on whether I provide authorization for the requested use or disclosure.

I understand that I have the right to:

- Inspect or copy the protected health information to be used or disclosed as permitted under federal law (or state law to the extent the state law provides greater access rights).
- Refuse to sign this authorization.
- Receive a signed copy of this authorization.

The use or disclosure requested under this authorization will result in direct or indirect remuneration to UNITY Healthcare from a third party, if applicable.

Signature of Patient or Personal Representative

Date

Name of Patient or Personal Representative

Description of Personal Representative's Authority

DATE

VENDOR
OFFICE ADDRESS

Dear VENDOR:

In an effort to comply with the business associate contract requirements of the Privacy Rule under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), we have enclosed a supplement to our agreement as outlined by the Department of Health and Human Services in the Final HIPAA privacy standards dated August 14, 2002. This supplement serves as an addendum to agreements currently in place or any agreements that may be signed in the future.

During the terms of our agreements, VENDOR may receive from UNITY Healthcare or may create on behalf of the Practice, certain confidential health information (PHI) that is protected under state or federal law including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Through this addendum, VENDOR represents that you have policies and procedures in place that will adequately safeguard any PHI you receive or create, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, specifically HIPAA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 765-447-8133.

Sincerely,

UNITY Healthcare

OBLIGATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF VENDOR, RELATED TO PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI) FOR UNITY HEALTHCARE (COVERED ENTITY)

- a) VENDOR agrees to not use or disclose Protected Health Information (PHI) other than as permitted or required under our Agreement(s) or as required by Law.
- b) VENDOR agrees to use appropriate safeguards to prevent use or disclosure of PHI other than provided for by our Agreement(s).
- c) VENDOR agrees to mitigate, to the extent practicable, any harmful effect that is known by VENDOR of a use or disclosure of PHI by us in violation of the requirements of our Agreement(s).
- d) VENDOR agrees to report to the Practice any use or disclosure of the PHI not provided for by our Agreement(s).
- e) VENDOR agrees to ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom it provides PHI received from, or created or received by VENDOR on behalf of the Practice, agrees to the same restrictions and conditions that apply through our Agreement(s) to VENDOR with respect to such information.
- f) VENDOR agrees to provide access, at the request of the Practice, and in the time and manner designated by the Practice, to PHI in a Designated Record Set, to the Practice.
- g) VENDOR agrees to make any amendment(s) to PHI in a Designated Record Set that the Practice directs or agrees to at the request of the Practice or an Individual, and in the time and manner designated by the Practice.
- h) VENDOR agrees to make internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure or PHI received from, or created or received by VENDOR on behalf of, the Practice available to the Practice, or at the request of the Practice to the Department of Health and Human Service's Secretary, in a time and manner designated by the Practice or the Secretary, for purposes of the Secretary determining the Practice's compliance with the Privacy Rule.
- i) VENDOR agrees to document such disclosures of PHI and information related to such disclosures as would be required by the Practice to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI.
- j) VENDOR agrees to provide to the Practice, in time and manner designated by the Practice, information collected to permit the Practice to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures for PHI.
- k) To the extent possible, upon termination of this agreement, VENDOR shall return or destroy all PHI received from the Practice, or created or received by VENDOR on behalf of the Practice. This provision shall apply to PHI that is in the possession of subcontractors or agents of VENDOR.

OBLIGATIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF VENDOR, RELATED TO PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI) FOR UNITY HEALTHCARE (COVERED ENTITY)

However, VENDOR may determine that returning or destroying the PHI is infeasible due to professional requirements. Therefore, VENDOR extends the protections of our Agreement(s) to such PHI and limits further uses and disclosures of such PHI to those purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible, for so long as VENDOR maintains such PHI.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures by VENDOR:

- a) Except as otherwise limited in this Agreement, VENDOR may use PHI for the proper management and administration of VENDOR or to carry out the legal responsibilities of VENDOR.
- b) Except as otherwise limited in our Agreement(s), VENDOR may use or disclose PHI to perform functions, activities, or services for, or on behalf of, the Covered Entity as specified in our Agreement(s) provided that such use or disclosure would not violate the Privacy Rule if done by the Practice.
- c) Except as otherwise limited in our Agreement(s), VENDOR may disclose PHI for the proper management and administration of VENDOR, provided that disclosures are required by law, or VENDOR obtains reasonable assurances from the person to whom the information is disclosed that it will remain confidential and used or further disclosed only as required by law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person, and the person notifies VENDOR of any instances in which it is aware in which the confidentiality of the information has been breached.

BY: _____ DATE: _____

