

# 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

### YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Receive a copy of your paper or electronic medical record
- Correct your paper or electronic medical record
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Receive a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Receive a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

➤ **See page 2** for more info on these rights and how to exercise them

## Your Choices

### YOU HAVE SOME CHOICES IN THE WAY THAT WE USE AND SHARE INFORMATION AS WE:

- Tell family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Provide mental health care
- Provide substance use services
- Raise funds (only with your written permission)

➤ **See page 3** for more info on these choices & how to exercise them

## Our Uses and Disclosure

### WE MAY USE AND SHARE YOUR INFORMATION AS WE:

- Treat you
- Run our organization
- Bill for your services
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests
- Work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, & other government requests

➤ **See page 3 & 4** for more info on these uses & disclosures

## 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.

- You can ask to see or receive an electronic or paper copy of your medical record 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 information, usually within 30 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 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 will 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 that 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’ve shared information**

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we have 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 will provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if asked 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 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. *(Must provide legal documentation of proof).*
- 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 are violated**

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the info on page 1.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 509F HHH Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20201, or 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 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 your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- **Appointment Reminders:** Unless you provide us with alternative instructions we may send appointment reminders and other similar materials to your home.

*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 & Disclosure**

### **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 other professionals who are treating you (with exception to Substance Abuse and HIV clients where permission is required).

***Example:** A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.*

#### **Run our organization**

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

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

#### **Bill for your services**

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

***Example:** We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.*

## **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:** <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/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 or neglect of a child or of an adult that needs assistance with activities of daily living
- 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**

We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.

### Work with a medical examiner or funeral director

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.

## 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: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/index.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 upon request, in our office, and on our web site.

## Other Instructions for Notice

- Effective Date of this Notice: **09/23/2013, Revised on 8/28/2020**
- Privacy Officer: Valerie Simons, RHIA  
503 Farrell Drive, Covington, KY 41011 ([valerie.simons@northkey.org](mailto:valerie.simons@northkey.org)) / 859-578-3200
- Security Officer: David Penley –  
502 Farrell Drive, Covington, KY 41011 ([dpenley@northkey.org](mailto:dpenley@northkey.org)) / 859-578-3200
- **Per the Federal Regulation 42 CFR, Part 2,** “We will never share any substance abuse treatment records without your written permission” with exception to what is allowed by regulations, see below.
- **Uses and Disclosures of PHI from Alcohol and Other Drug Records Not Requiring Consent or Authorization:** The law provides that we may use/disclose your PHI from alcohol and other drug records without consent or authorization in the following circumstances:
  - **When required by law:** We may disclose PHI when a law requires that we report information about suspected child abuse and neglect, or when a crime has been committed on the program premises or against program personnel, or in response to a court order.
  - **Relating to decedents:** We may disclose PHI relating to an individual's death if state or federal law requires the information for collection of vital statistics or inquiry into cause of death.
- **For audit or evaluation purposes:** In certain circumstances, we may disclose PHI for audit or evaluation purposes.
- **Health Information Exchange:** In order to support the best possible care among all your providers, there will be times when some basic information will be sent from one provider to another through a secure electronic communication. The information sent or received will include only essential components of your diagnosis and treatment. This information exchange is intended to assure that your care is consistent, and your providers are well informed in all settings. This secure electronic exchange does not require your consent, but we can exempt you from the exchange at your request. If you have concerns about secure electronic information exchange, you can speak to your provider.