

## Oklahoma City-County Health Department HIPAA Privacy Notice

**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.**

**It is the policy of the Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) to keep all your medical and personal information confidential.** We will only use or disclose your information for the following reasons:

**Treatment:** We will share your medical information with other medical providers who are involved in your care (including hospitals and clinics), to refer you for treatment, and to coordinate your care with others. We also participate in Electronic Health Information Exchanges, which may make your protected health information (PHI) available statewide and nationwide. We will only authorize this information to be shared for your treatment purposes. For example, if you are in another city or state, it may be possible to share treatment information with a doctor who needs that information. If we use or disclose your psychotherapy notes, OCCHD must obtain your written permission, unless the use is for treatment.

We may also participate with digital health information exchanges and their members, in which we send patient data to a network system committed to securing the information and allowing your data to be available to other members who are providing treatment to you.

**Payment:** We may use and disclose PHI when it is needed to receive payment for services provided to you unless you have paid in full for services provided during your visit. For example, if you have Medicaid benefits or private insurance, we will release the minimum information necessary for Medicaid program to pay us.

**Electronic Health Information Networks:** Until now, providers and health plans have exchanged information about you for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations directly by hand-delivery, telephone, mail, facsimile, or email. This process is time consuming and expensive, may not be secure, and often is unreliable. Electronic health information networks change this process. New technology allows a provider or a health plan to submit a single request through a health information network to obtain electronic records for a specified patient from other network participants. Your electronic medical record will be included in the network, and accessed by other network participants who have a relationship to you unless you affirmatively choose not to participate by submitting an Opt-Out Request to the network. By opting out your information would be blocked from being seen by network participants.

**Health Care Operations:** We will use and disclose PHI when it is needed to make sure we are providing you with good service. For instance, we may review your records in order to make certain quality service was given. We may also share PHI with a health plan for the plan's Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS). For example, your insurance company may want to know if you have had immunizations in an effort to make improvements in their service and quality of care.

OCCHD may contact you to provide appointment reminders.

Other uses or disclosures of your PHI that may occur include:

- If you have given us permission in writing to release part of your information;
- When ordered to do so by a valid court order;
- When cases of child abuse or neglect are investigated;
- Immunization information is shared with schools and childcare centers;
- When business associates of OCCHD, such as community clinics, sign agreements to protect your privacy;
- When required by state law. For instance, when reporting injuries and disease as required by the Public Health codes or to prevent the spread of diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) or when reporting suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Human Services.
- We can share your information with anyone as necessary, consistent with Oklahoma law and the Oklahoma City-County Health Department's policies and procedures, if we feel there is imminent danger. For example, we will

release the minimum information necessary if we believe it will prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public.

**Emergency Coordination:** We will share your medical information with other medical providers who are involved in your care to coordinate your care with others (such as emergency relief workers or others who can help in finding you appropriate health services). We can share your information as necessary to identify, locate and notify family members, guardians, or anyone else responsible for your care, of your location, general condition, or death. For example, if it is necessary, we may notify the police, the press, or the public at large to the extent necessary to help locate, identify or otherwise notify family members and others as to your location and general condition.

**Any other use or disclosure of your PHI requires your written authorization:** Under any circumstances other than those listed above, OCCHD will ask for your written authorization before we use or disclose your PHI. Specifically, OCCHD must obtain your written authorization for the use and disclosure of psychotherapy notes, marketing, and the sale of PHI. OCCHD will not sell PHI without your written authorization. You can later cancel your authorization in writing and we will not disclose your PHI after we receive your cancellation, except for disclosures which were processed before we received your cancellation.

**Your Rights:** You have the right to:

- Receive a list of persons or organizations, other than those listed above, to whom we released your information.
- Request limits on how your information is used or disclosed; however, we are not required to agree to those limits unless you pay out of pocket in full for a service. If you pay out of pocket in full for a service and you request we not share information for this service with your insurance company we will honor your request.
- Ask that we not contact you at home.
- Inspect and copy your medical records except in cases involving certain psychotherapy notes.
- Amend incorrect information in your medical record.
- Revoke your written permission for release of information.
- Receive notification if your unsecured health information is breached.
- Receive a paper copy of this privacy notice.

**Our Responsibilities:** Federal law requires the Oklahoma City-County Health Department and its entities to:

- Maintain the confidentiality of your protected health information.
- Provide you with a copy of this notice.
- Abide by the terms of this notice.
- Only change this notice as permitted by federal rules.
- Provide you with a way to file complaints regarding privacy issues.

For further information regarding this notice and your rights, or to report any complaints regarding privacy issues, contact:



HIPAA Privacy Officer  
Oklahoma City-County Health Department  
2600 NE 63rd  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
405-425-4462      HIPAA\_Officer@occhd.org

You may also report complaints directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services at the following address:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Civil Rights  
1301 Young Street, Suite 1169, Dallas, TX 75202  
Telephone: (214) 767-4056, (214) 767-8940 (TDD)