



Elizabeth Richardson Center Administrative Offices
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(479) 872-1800

NOTICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.
 PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Understanding Your Health Record Information

Each time you visit the Richardson Center, Inc. we make a record of your visit. Typically, this record contains your health history, current symptoms, evaluation and test results, diagnoses, services, and plan for future care or services. This information, often referred to as your medical record, serves as the following:

- Basis for planning your care and services.
- Means of communication among the many health professionals who contribute to your care.
- Legal document describing the care that you received.
- Means by which you or a third-party payer can verify that you actually received the services billed for.
- Tool in medical education.
- Source of information for public health officials charged with improving the health of the regions they serve.
- Tool to assess the appropriateness and quality of care that you received.
- Tool to improve the quality of health care and achieve better client outcomes.

Understanding what is in your health records and how your health information is used helps you to--

- Ensure its accuracy and completeness.
- Understand who, what, where, why, and how others may access your health information.
- Make informed decisions about authorizing disclosure to others.
- Better understand the health information rights detailed below.

Your Rights under the Federal Privacy Standard

Although your health records are the physical property of the health care provider who completed it, you have the following rights with regard to the information contained therein:

- **Request restriction on uses and disclosures of your health information for services, payment, and health care operations.** “Health care operations” consist of activities that are necessary to carry out the operations of the provider, such as quality assurance and peer review. The right to request restriction does not extend to uses or disclosures permitted or required under the following sections of the federal privacy regulations: § 164.502(a)(2)(i) (disclosures to you), or 164.512 (uses and disclosures not requiring a consent or an authorization). The latter uses and disclosures include, for example, those required by law, such as mandatory communicable disease reporting. In those cases, you do not have a right to request restriction. The consent to use and disclose your individually identifiable health information provides the ability to request restriction. We do not, however, have to agree to the restriction. If we do, we will adhere to it unless you request otherwise or we give you advance notice. You may also ask us to communicate with you by alternate means, and if the method of communication is reasonable, we must grant the alternate communication request. You may request restriction or alternate communications on the consent form for services, payment, and health care operations.
- **Obtain a copy of this notice of information practices.** Although we have posted a copy in a prominent location throughout our facilities and on our website, you have a right to a hard copy upon request.
- **Inspect and copy your health information upon request.** Again, this right is not absolute. In certain situations, such as if access would cause harm, we can deny access. In other situations, we may deny you access, but if we do, we must provide you a review of our decision denying access. For these reviewable grounds, another licensed professional must review the decision of the provider denying access within 60 days. If we deny you access, we will explain why and what your rights are, including how to seek review.

If we grant access, we will tell you what, if anything, you have to do to get access. We reserve the right to charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for making copies.

- **Request amendment/correction of your health information.** We do not have to grant the request if the following conditions exist:
 - We did not create the record. If, as in the case of a consultation report from another provider, we did not create the record, we cannot know whether it is accurate or not. Thus, in such cases, you must seek amendment/correction from the party creating the record. If the party amends or corrects the record, we will put the corrected record into our records.
 - The records are not available to you as discussed immediately above.
 - The record is accurate and complete.

If we deny your request for amendment/correction, we will notify you why, how you can attach a statement of disagreement to your records (which we may rebut), and how you can complain. If we grant the request, we will make the correction and distribute the correction to those who need it and those whom you identify to us that you want to receive the corrected information.

- **Obtain an accounting of non-routine uses and disclosures, those other than for services, payment, and health care operations.** We do not need to provide an accounting for the following disclosures:
 - To you for disclosures of protected health information to you.
 - For other notification purposes as provided in § 164.510, § 164.512(k)(2), § 164.512(k)(5), of the federal privacy regulations.
 - That occurred before April 14, 2003.

We must provide the accounting within 60 days. The accounting must include the following information:

- Date of each disclosure.
- Name and address of the organization or person who received the protected health information.
- Brief description of the information disclosed.
- Brief statement of the purpose of the disclosure that reasonably informs you of the basis for the disclosure or, in lieu of such statement, a copy of your written authorization or a copy of the written request for disclosure.

The first accounting in any 12-month period is free. Thereafter, we reserve the right to charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

- **Revoke your consent or authorization to use or disclose health information except to the extent that we have taken action in reliance on the consent or authorization.**

Our Responsibilities under the Federal Privacy Standard

In addition to providing you your rights, as detailed above, the federal privacy standard requires us to take the following measures:

- Maintain the privacy of your health information, including implementing reasonable and appropriate physical, administrative, and technical safeguards to protect the information.
- Provide you this notice as to our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to individually identifiable health information that we collect and maintain about you.
- Abide by the terms of this notice.
- Train our personnel concerning privacy and confidentiality.
- Implement a sanction policy to discipline those who breach privacy/ confidentiality or our policies with regard thereto.
- Mitigate (lessen the harm of) any breach of privacy/confidentiality.

We will not use or disclose your health information without your consent or authorization, except as described in this notice or otherwise required by law.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OUR PRACTICES AND TO MAKE THE NEW PROVISIONS EFFECTIVE FOR ALL INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION THAT WE MAINTAIN. IF WE CHANGE OUR INFORMATION PRACTICES, WE WILL MAIL A REVISED NOTICE TO THE ADDRESS THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US.

How to Get More Information or to Report a Problem

If you have questions and/or would like additional information, you may contact the privacy officer at (479) 872-1800.

Examples of Disclosures for Services, Payment, and Health Operations

- ***If you give us consent, we will use your health information for services.***

Example: A case manager, a therapist or a counselor, a nurse, or another member of your inter-disciplinary team will record information in your record to diagnose your condition and determine the best course of services for you. The case manager will coordinate the services of your inter-disciplinary team as specified in your Individual Program Plan (IPP). Those inter-disciplinary team members will then document the actions they took and their observations. In that way, the case manager will know how you are responding to services.

We will also provide your physician, other health care professionals, or a subsequent health care provider copies of your records to assist them in serving you once we are no longer serving you.

- ***If you give us consent, we will use your health information for payment.***

Example: We may send a bill to you or to a third-party payer, such as a health insurer. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you, your diagnosis, services received, and supplies used.

- ***If you give us consent, we will use your health information for health operations.***

Example: We will use this information in an effort to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care and services that we provide.

- ***Business associates:*** We provide some services through contracts with business associates.

When we use these services, we may disclose your health information to the business associates so that they can perform the function(s) that we have contracted with them to do and bill you or your third-party payer for services provided. To protect your health information, however, we require the business associates to appropriately safeguard your information.

- ***Notification:*** We may use or disclose information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, a personal representative, or another person responsible for your care, your location, and general condition.

- ***Communication with family:*** Unless you object, health professionals, using their best judgment, may disclose to a family member, another relative, a close personal friend, or any other person that you identify health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care or payment related to your care.

- ***Research:*** We may disclose 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 health information.

- ***Funeral directors:*** We may disclose health information to funeral directors consistent with applicable law to enable them to carry out their duties.

- ***Marketing/continuity of care:*** We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about services alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

- ***Fundraising:*** We may contact you as a part of a fundraising effort. You have the right to request not to receive subsequent fundraising materials.

- ***Food and Drug Administration ("FDA"):*** We may disclose to the FDA health information relative to adverse effects/events with respect to food, drugs, supplements, product or product defects, or postmarketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

- ***Workers compensation:*** We may disclose health information to the extent authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers compensation or other similar programs established by law.

- ***Public health:*** As required by law, we may disclose your health information to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability.

- ***Law enforcement:*** We may disclose health information for law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to a valid subpoena.

- ***Health oversight agencies and public health authorities:*** If a member of our work force or a business associate believes in good faith that we have engaged in unlawful conduct or otherwise violated professional or clinical standards and are potentially endangering one or more clients, workers, or the public, they may disclose your health information to health oversight agencies and/or public health authorities, such as the department of health.

- ***The federal Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS"):*** Under the privacy standards, we must disclose your health information to DHHS as necessary to determine our compliance with those standards.

Other:

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Office of Long Term Care

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Effective date: April 14, 2003