



EFFECTIVE: *June 1, 2020*

SUMMARY NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

This summary describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully. A complete notice of privacy practice can be obtained from any registration or service area.

How we may use and disclose your health information: We may use health information about you for treatment, to get paid for treatment, for administrative purposes, and to evaluate the quality of care that you receive. For example, your health information may be shared with other providers to whom you are referred. Information may be shared by paper, mail, electronic mail, fax, or other methods. We may use or disclose your health information without your written authorization for several reasons, including emergency treatment. But beyond those situations, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing your health information. If you sign an authorization to disclose information, you can later revoke it to stop any future uses and 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.

Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record

- You can ask to see or get 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’ll 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 and you let us know at the time of registration, you can ask us not share the 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’ve 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’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask 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.



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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.
- 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 information below.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting 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 in writing, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and the 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
- Not share information with Health Information Exchanges (HIEs)
- Include your information in a hospital directory
- Contact you for fundraising efforts

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 legal duty: We are required by law to protect the privacy of your health information, provide a notice about our privacy practices, follow the privacy practices that are described by our Notice, and seek your acknowledgement of receipt of the Notice. We may change our privacy policies at any time. Before we make significant change in our policies, we will change our Notice of Privacy Practices and post the new notice in prominent areas. You can also request a copy of our Notice at any time. For more information about our privacy policies, contact the person(s) listed below.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMPLAINTS, PLEASE CONTACT BY LETTER OR PHONE:

*PRIVACY OFFICER, BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM,
615 NORTH MICHIGIAN STREET, SOUTH BEND, IN 46601
(574) 647-7751.*