

HIPAA ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION MEDICAL PRIVACY AND SECURITY PROVISION

USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION UNDER HIPAA PRIVACY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS

This Plan will Use a Covered Person's Protected Health Information (PHI) to the extent of and in accordance with the Uses and Disclosures permitted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Specifically, this Plan will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI for purposes related to health care Treatment, Payment for health care, and Health Care Operations. Additionally, this Plan will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI as required by law and as permitted by authorization. This section establishes the terms under which the Plan may share a Covered Person's PHI with the Plan Sponsor, and limits the Uses and Disclosures that the Plan Sponsor may make of a Covered Person's PHI.

This Plan will Disclose a Covered Person's PHI to the Plan Sponsor only to the extent necessary for the purposes of the administrative functions of Treatment, Payment for health care, or Health Care Operations.

The Plan Sponsor will Use and/or Disclose a Covered Person's PHI only to the extent necessary for the administrative functions of Treatment, Payment for health care, or Health Care Operations that it performs on behalf of this Plan.

This Plan agrees that it will Disclose a Covered Person's PHI to the Plan Sponsor only upon receipt of a certification from the Plan Sponsor that the terms of this section have been adopted and that the Plan Sponsor agrees to abide by these terms.

The Plan Sponsor is subject to all of the following restrictions that apply to the Use and Disclosure of a Covered Person's PHI:

- The Plan Sponsor will Use and Disclose a Covered Person's PHI (including Electronic PHI) only for Plan Administrative Functions, as required by law or as permitted under the HIPAA regulations. This Plan's Notice of Privacy Practices also contains more information about permitted Uses and Disclosures of PHI under HIPAA;
- The Plan Sponsor will implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Electronic PHI that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the Plan;
- The Plan Sponsor will require each of its subcontractors or agents to whom the Plan Sponsor may provide a Covered Person's PHI to agree to the same restrictions and conditions imposed on the Plan Sponsor with regard to a Covered Person's PHI;
- The Plan Sponsor will ensure that each of its subcontractors or agents to whom the Plan Sponsor may provide Electronic PHI agree to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect Electronic PHI;
- The Plan Sponsor will not Use or Disclose PHI for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other of the Plan Sponsor's benefits or Employee benefit plans;
- The Plan Sponsor will promptly report to this Plan any breach or impermissible or improper Use or Disclosure of PHI not authorized by the Plan documents;
- The Plan Sponsor will report to the Plan any breach or security incident with respect to Electronic PHI of which the Plan Sponsor becomes aware;

- The Plan Sponsor and the Plan will not use genetic information for underwriting purposes. For example, underwriting purposes will include determining eligibility, coverage, or payment under the Plan, with the exception of determining medical appropriateness of a treatment;
- The Plan Sponsor will allow a Covered Person or this Plan to inspect and copy any PHI about the Covered Person contained in the Designated Record Set that is in the Plan Sponsor's custody or control. The HIPAA Privacy Regulations set forth the rules that the Covered Person and the Plan must follow and also sets forth exceptions;
- The Plan Sponsor will amend or correct, or make available to the Plan to amend or correct, any portion of the Covered Person's PHI contained in the Designated Record Set to the extent permitted or required under the HIPAA Privacy Regulations;
- The Plan Sponsor will keep a Disclosure log for certain types of Disclosures set forth in the HIPAA Regulations. Each Covered Person has the right to see the Disclosure log. The Plan Sponsor does not have to maintain a log if Disclosures are for certain Plan-related purposes such as Payment of benefits or Health Care Operations;
- The Plan Sponsor will make its internal practices, books, and records related to the Use and Disclosure of a Covered Person's PHI available to this Plan and to the Department of Health and Human Services or its designee for the purpose of determining this Plan's compliance with HIPAA;
- The Plan Sponsor must, if feasible, return to this Plan or destroy all of a Covered Person's PHI that the Plan Sponsor received from or on behalf of this Plan when the Plan Sponsor no longer needs the Covered Person's PHI to administer this Plan. This includes all copies in any form, including any compilations derived from the PHI. If return or destruction is not feasible, the Plan Sponsor agrees to restrict and limit further Uses and Disclosures to the purposes that make the return or destruction infeasible;
- The Plan Sponsor will provide that adequate separation exists between this Plan and the Plan Sponsor so that a Covered Person's PHI (including Electronic PHI) will be used only for the purpose of Plan administration; and
- The Plan Sponsor will use reasonable efforts to request only the minimum necessary type and amount of a Covered Person's PHI to carry out functions for which the information is requested.

The following Employees, classes of Employees, or other workforce members under the control of the Plan Sponsor may be given access to a Covered Person's PHI for Plan Administrative Functions that the Plan Sponsor performs on behalf of the Plan as set forth in this section:

Human Resources

This list includes every Employee, class of Employees, or other workforce members under the control of the Plan Sponsor who may receive a Covered Person's PHI. If any of these Employees or workforce members Use or Disclose a Covered Person's PHI in violation of the terms set forth in this section, the Employees or workforce members will be subject to disciplinary action and sanctions, including the possibility of termination of employment. If the Plan Sponsor becomes aware of any such violation, the Plan Sponsor will promptly report the violation to this Plan and will cooperate with the Plan to correct the violation, to impose the appropriate sanctions, and to mitigate any harmful effects to the Covered Person.

DEFINITIONS

Administrative Simplification is the section of the law that addresses electronic transactions, privacy, and security. The goals are to:

- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system;
- Standardize electronic data interchange of certain administrative transactions;
- Safeguard security and privacy of Protected Health Information;
- Improve efficiency to compile/analyze data, audit, and detect fraud; and
- Improve the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Business Associate (BA) in relationship to a Covered Entity (CE) means a person to whom the CE discloses Protected Health Information (PHI) so that a person may carry out, assist with the performance of, or perform a function or activity for the CE. This includes contractors or other persons who receive PHI from the CE (or from another business partner of the CE) for the purposes described in the previous sentence, including lawyers, auditors, consultants, Third Party Administrators, health care clearinghouses, data processing firms, billing firms, and other Covered Entities. This excludes persons who are within the CE's workforce.

Covered Entity (CE) is one of the following: a health plan, a health care clearinghouse, or a health care provider who transmits any health information in connection with a transaction covered by this law.

Designated Record Set means a set of records maintained by or for a Covered Entity that includes a Covered Person's PHI. This includes medical records, billing records, enrollment records, Payment records, claims adjudication records, and case management record systems maintained by or for this Plan. This also includes records used to make decisions about Covered Persons. This record set must be maintained for a minimum of six years.

Disclose or Disclosure is the release or divulgence of information by an entity to persons or organizations outside that entity.

Electronic Protected Health Information (Electronic PHI) is Individually Identifiable Health Information that is transmitted by electronic media or maintained in electronic media. It is a subset of Protected Health Information.

Health Care Operations are general administrative and business functions necessary for the CE to remain a viable business. These activities include:

- Conducting quality assessment and improvement activities;
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications and accrediting/licensing of health care professional plans;
- Evaluating health care professional and health plan performance;
- Training future health care professionals;
- Insurance activities related to the renewal of a contract for insurance;
- Conducting or arranging for medical review and auditing services;
- Compiling and analyzing information in anticipation of or for use in a civil or criminal legal proceeding;
- Population-based activities related to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management, and care coordination;
- Contacting of health care providers and patients with information about Treatment alternatives and related functions that do not entail direct patient care; and
- Activities related to the creation, renewal, or replacement of a contract for health insurance or health benefits, as well as ceding, securing, or placing a contract for reinsurance of risk related to claims for health care (including stop-loss and excess of loss insurance).

Individually Identifiable Health Information is information that is a subset of health information, including demographic information collected from a Covered Person, and that:

- Is created by or received from a Covered Entity;
- Relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of a Covered Person, the provision of health care, or the past, present, or future Payment for the provision of health care; and
- Identifies the Covered Person, or there is reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the Covered Person.

Payment means the activities of the health plan or a Business Associate, including the actual Payment under the policy or contract; and a health care provider or its Business Associate that obtains reimbursement for the provision of health care.

Plan Administrative Functions means administrative functions of Payment or Health Care Operations performed by the Plan Sponsor on behalf of the Plan, including quality assurance, claims processing, auditing, and monitoring.

Plan Sponsor means Your employer.

Privacy Official is the individual who provides oversight of compliance with all policies and procedures related to the protection of PHI and federal and state regulations related to a Covered Person's privacy.

Protected Health Information (PHI) is Individually Identifiable Health Information transmitted or maintained by a Covered Entity in written, electronic, or oral form. PHI includes Electronic PHI.

Treatment is the provision of health care by, or the coordination of health care (including health care management of the individual through risk assessment, case management, and disease management) among, health care providers; the referral of a patient from one provider to another; or the coordination of health care or other services among health care providers and third parties authorized by the health plan or the individual.

Use means, with respect to Individually Identifiable Health Information, the sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of such information within an entity that maintains such information.