



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Joint Notice of Privacy Practices

Effective date: December 1, 2016

Joint Notice of Privacy Practices

**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:

- Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record
- Ask us to amend your medical record
- Request confidential communication so that we contact you in a certain way to protect your privacy
- Ask us to limit what health information about you we use or disclose
- Get a list of those to whom we've disclosed your health information
- Get 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 pages 3 and 4** for more information on these rights and how to exercise them

Your Choices

You may choose to limit the way that we use and disclose your health information under the following circumstances:

- How we tell family and friends about your condition
- Providing disaster relief
- Including you in a hospital directory where we list your name as a patient in the hospital
- Providing mental health care
- Marketing our services and selling your health information with your written permission
- Fundraising

➤ **See page 4** for more information on these choices and how to exercise them

Our Uses and Disclosures

We may use and disclose your health information as we:

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

➤ **See pages 4 and 5** for more information on these 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.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a cost-based fee for the copy.
- You can ask to get a copy of your medical record by completing the Authorization for Release of Medical Information form and mailing it to Medical Information Management, Attention Release of Information, N113 Doan Hall, 410 W. 10th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210 or to the clinic or office manager where you received treatment.

Ask us to amend your medical record

- You can ask us to amend health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.
- You can make a request for an amendment by completing the Request for Amendment to Medical Record form and mailing it to the Administrative Director of Medical Information Management, 600 Ackerman Road, Room E2098, Columbus, OH 43202.

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.
- If you make a request for confidential communications, then you must complete the Request for Confidential Communications form and mail it to the Administrative Director of Medical Information Management, 600 Ackerman Road, Room E2098, Columbus, OH 43202.

Special notice on email

- The Health System recognizes that patients may prefer email as a way to communicate with us.
- Please be aware that information sent using email may not be secure. There is a possibility that information about you may be intercepted and read by other people. We will ask your permission before using unsecure email to communicate with you about your health care that involves your health information.
- If you give us your email address, we may email you information about our products and services, tips about healthy living or when we open a new location.
- Patients also ask us if they can email their providers about their health care. Whenever possible, we prefer that patients use OSUMyChart to securely communicate with health care providers because of the inherent risk that email communications are unsecure.

Ask us to limit what we use or disclose

- You can ask us not to use or disclose 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 disclose that health information to your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to disclose that health information.
- You can make a request for a restriction by completing the Request for Restriction of Access to Protected Health Information form and mailing it to the Administrative Director of Medical Information Management, 600 Ackerman Road, Room E2098, Columbus, OH 43202.

Get a list of those with whom we’ve disclosed your health information

- You can ask for a list of the times we’ve disclosed your health information for six years before the date you ask, who we disclosed it to and why.
- We will include all the times disclosed except for those about treatment, payment and health care operations, and certain others, such as any you asked us to make. We’ll provide one list per year for free. However, we will charge a cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

- You can request a list of disclosed health information by completing the Request for an Accounting of Disclosures form and mailing it to the Administrative Director of Medical Information Management, 600 Ackerman Road, Room E2098, Columbus, OH 43202.
- 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.
- 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.

Get a copy of this privacy notice

Choose someone to act for you

Your Choices

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we disclose. If you have a clear preference for how we disclose your health 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:

- Disclose health information to your family, close friends or others involved in your care
- Disclose health information in a disaster relief situation
- Include your health information in a hospital directory if you are a patient in the hospital

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example, if you are unconscious, we may disclose your health information if we believe it is in your best interest. We may also disclose your health information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of others.

In the following cases we never disclose your health information unless you give us written permission to do so:

- Marketing purposes as described in the HIPAA regulations
- Sale of your information to others
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes

In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising activities. However, you will be given the chance to stop receiving these contacts.

Our Uses and Disclosures

How do we typically use or disclose your health information?

We typically use or disclose your health information in the following ways:

To treat you

- We can use your health information and disclose it with other professionals who are treating you.

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

To run our organization

- We can use and disclose your health information to run our health system, improve your care and contact you when needed.

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

To bill for your services

- We can use and disclose 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 disclose your health information? We are allowed or required to disclose your health information for other reasons such as such public health, research and as allowed by law. For more information, visit the [Office of Civil Rights' Health Information Privacy webpage](#).

Help with public health and safety issues

- We can disclose health information about you for certain situations to:
 - Prevent disease
 - Help with product recalls
 - Report adverse reactions to medicines
 - Report suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence
 - Prevent or reduce a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

Research

- We may use your health information for research. Before we use or disclose any of your health information for research purposes in a way that you could be identified, the research project will be subject to an extensive review and approval process.

Comply with the law

- We will disclose health information about you if state or federal laws require it.

Respond to organ and tissue donation requests

- By law, we can disclose health information about you to organ procurement organizations.

Work with a medical examiner or funeral director

- By law, we can disclose health information to a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

Address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests

- By law, we can use or disclose health information about you:
 - For workers' compensation claims
 - For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
 - With health oversight agencies
 - For special government functions such as military, national security and presidential protective services

Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

- We can disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. Under certain Federal and Ohio laws, some requests may require a hearing and court order for the disclosure of any health information.

Health Information Exchange

- We may take part in one or more health information exchanges (HIEs) and may electronically disclose your health information for treatment, payment and healthcare operations purposes with other health care providers in the HIEs. HIEs allow all of your health care providers to access and use your health information needed for treatment and other lawful purposes. Based on state law requirements and depending on the HIE, you may be asked to "opt-in" or you may be able to "opt-out."

Our responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your health information.
- We will let you know if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your health information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and offer to give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or disclose your health 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.

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:** The effective date of this Notice is December 1, 2016.
- **This notice applies to:**
 - Brain and Spine Hospital;
 - Dodd Hall;
 - OSU Harding Hospital;
 - Talbot Hall;
 - University Hospital;
 - Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital;
 - University Hospital East;
 - The James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute;
 - Primary Care & Specialty Care Networks;
 - The Ohio State University Physicians, Inc. under an Organized Health Care Arrangement; and
 - The Nisonger Center under an Organized Health Care Arrangement.
- **Affiliated covered entity:** We disclose health information with Madison Health as needed to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations based on our affiliation with Madison Health. Madison Health is a separate health care provider and is responsible for its own activities, including their Notice of Privacy Practices and following privacy laws for all health care services it provides. Madison Health is not in any way providing health care services mutually or on the Health System's behalf.
- **Updates to our organizations list:** From time to time, we may add organizations and affiliations to our list. You may find the most updated list of entities that this notice covers under the **Organizations List** on our website.
- **OSUMyChart:** You may get electronic access to your own health information through OSUMyChart. OSUMyChart is an online service hosted by the Health System that allows you another option to access your health information.
- **Privacy Officials:** If you have questions about privacy, please contact:
 - Health System Privacy Office: (614) 293-4477
 - Ohio State University Physicians, Inc. Privacy Office: (614) 685-1530
 - Nisonger Center Privacy Office: (614) 688-8544

File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us. Any complaints can be made in writing or by phone to The Patient Experience Department where you are receiving care:

University Hospital and Networks:

410 W. 10th Avenue, Room 142 Doan Hall, Columbus, OH 43210 or (614) 293-8944

The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute:

460 W. 10th Avenue, Room A021, Columbus, OH 43210 or (614) 293-8609

The Ohio State University Hospital East:

181 Taylor Avenue, Room T-100, Columbus, OH 43205 or (614) 257-2310

OSU Harding Hospital:

1670 Upham Drive, Columbus, OH 43210 or (614) 688-8941

Ohio State University Physicians, Inc.:

Attention: Privacy Officer, 700 Ackerman, Suite 605, Columbus, OH 43202 or (614) 685-1530

- 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/hipaa/filing-a-complaint**.
- We will not take action against you for filing a complaint.