

BLA Partners, LLC BLA of Massachusetts, LLC

BLA Partners, LLC NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR HEALTH RECORD/INFORMATION

Each time you visit a hospital, physician, dentist, or other healthcare provider, a record of your visit is made. Typically, this record contains your symptoms, examination and test results, diagnoses, treatment, and a plan for future care or treatment. This information often referred to as your health or medical record (also referred to as Protected Health Information (“PHI”)), and serves as a basis for planning your care and treatment and serves as a means of communication among the many health professionals who contribute to your care. Understanding what is in your record and how your health information is used helps you to ensure its accuracy, better understand who, what, when, where, and why others may access your health information, and helps you make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS

Unless otherwise required by law, your health record is the physical property of the healthcare practitioner or facility that compiled it. However, you have certain rights with respect to the information. You have the right to:

- 1. Receive a copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices** from us upon enrollment or upon request.
- 2. Request restrictions on our uses and disclosures of your PHI** for treatment, payment and health care operations. We reserve the right not to agree to a given requested restriction. If you have paid in full and out of pocket for the services provided, you may request that we not disclose your health information to a health plan for payment or health care operations, and we must follow this request unless a law requires us to share it.
- 3. Request to receive communications of PHI in confidence.**
- 4. Inspect and obtain a copy of the PHI** contained in your medical and billing records and in any other Practice records used by us to make decisions about you. If we maintain or use electronic health records, you will also have the right to obtain a copy or forward a copy of your electronic health record to a third party in the form and format requested, if readily producible. A reasonable copying/labor charge may apply.
- 5. Request an amendment to your PHI.** However, we may deny your request for an amendment, if we determine that the PHI or record that is the subject of the request:
 - was not created by us, unless you provide a reasonable basis to believe that the originator of the PHI is no longer available to act on the requested amendment;
 - is not part of your medical or billing records; or
 - is accurate and complete.In any event, any agreed upon amendment will be included as an addition to, and not a replacement of, already existing records.
- 6. Receive an accounting of disclosures of PHI** made by us to individuals or entities other than to you, except for disclosures:
 - to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations as provided above;
 - to persons involved in your care or for other notification purposes as provided by law;
 - to correctional institutions or law enforcement officials as provided by law;
 - for national security or intelligence purposes;
 - that occurred prior to the date of compliance with privacy standards (April 14, 2003);
 - incidental to other permissible uses or disclosures;
 - that are part of a limited data set (does not contain PHI that directly identifies individuals);
 - made to patient or their personal representatives;
 - for which a written authorization form from the patient has been received
- 7. Revoke your authorization to use or disclose health information** except to the extent that we have already taken action in reliance on your authorization, or if the authorization was obtained as a condition of obtaining insurance coverage and other applicable law provides the insurer that obtained the authorization with the right to contest a claim under the policy.
- 8. Receive notification if affected by a breach of unsecured PHI**

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HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED

This organization may use and/or disclose your medical information for the following purposes:

Treatment: We may use and disclose PHI in the provision, coordination, or management of your health care, including consultations between health care providers regarding your care and referrals for health care from one health care provider to another.

Payment: We may use and disclose PHI to obtain reimbursement for the health care provided to you, including determinations of eligibility and coverage and other utilization review activities.

Regular Healthcare Operations: We may use and disclose PHI to support functions of our practice related to treatment and payment, such as quality assurance activities, case management, receiving and responding to patient complaints, physician reviews, compliance programs, audits, business planning, development, management and administrative activities.

Appointment Reminders: We may use and disclose PHI to contact you to provide appointment reminders.

Treatment Alternatives: We may use and disclose PHI to tell you about or recommend possible treatment alternatives or other health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you

Health-Related Benefits and Services: We may use and disclose PHI to tell you about health-related benefits, services, or medical education classes that may be of interest to you.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care: Unless you object, we may disclose your PHI to your family or friends or any other individual identified by you when they are involved in your care or the payment for your care. We will only disclose the PHI directly relevant to their involvement in your care or payment. We may also disclose your PHI to notify a person responsible for your care (or to identify such person) of your location, general condition or death.

Business Associates: There may be some services provided in our organization through contracts with Business Associates. Examples include a computer support firm or a copy service we use when making copies of your health record. When these services are contracted, we may disclose some or all of your health information to our Business Associate so that they can perform the job we have asked them to do. To protect your health information, however, we require the Business Associate to appropriately safeguard your information.

Organ and Tissue Donation: If you are an organ donor, we may release medical information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.

Worker's Compensation: We may release PHI about you for programs that provide benefits for work related injuries or illness to comply with workers' compensation laws.

Communicable Diseases: We may disclose PHI to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition

Health Oversight Activities: We may disclose PHI to federal or state agencies that oversee our activities.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose PHI as required by law or in response to a valid judge ordered subpoena or warrant. For example in cases of victims of abuse or domestic violence; to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; related to judicial or administrative proceedings; or related to other law enforcement purposes.

Military and Veterans: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release PHI about you as required by military command authorities.

Lawsuits and Disputes: We may disclose PHI about you in response to a court or administrative order or subpoenas, if required by law.

Inmates: If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release PHI about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. An inmate does not have the right to the Notice of Privacy Practices.

Abuse or Neglect: We may disclose PHI to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.

Coroners, Medical Examiners, and Funeral Directors: We may release PHI to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also release PHI about patients to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.

Public Health Risks: We may disclose your PHI for public health activities and purposes to a public health authority that is permitted by law to collect or receive the information. The disclosure will be made for the purpose such as controlling disease, injury or disability.

Serious Threats: As permitted by applicable law and standards of ethical conduct, we may use and disclose PHI if we, in good faith, believe that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): As required by law, we may disclose to the FDA health information relative to adverse events with respect to food, supplements, product and product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Research (inpatient): We may disclose information to researchers when an institutional review board that has reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of your health information has approved their research.

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OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We are required to maintain the privacy of your health information. In addition, we are required to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to information we collect and maintain about you. We must abide by the terms of this notice. We reserve the right to change our practices and to make the new provisions effective for all the PHI we maintain. If our information practices change, a revised notice will be mailed to the address you have supplied upon request. If we maintain a Web site that provides information about our patient/customer services or benefits, the new notice will be posted on that Web site.

Your health information will not be used or disclosed without your written authorization, except as described in this notice. The following uses and disclosures will be made only with explicit authorization from you:

- (i) uses and disclosures of your health information for marketing purposes, including subsidized treatment communications;
- (ii) disclosures that constitute a sale of your health information; and
- (iii) other uses and disclosures not described in the notice.

Except as noted above, you may revoke your authorization in writing at any time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM

If you have questions about this notice or would like additional information, you may contact our Privacy Officer, at the telephone or address below. If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you have the right to file a complaint with the Privacy Officer at BLA Partners, LLC or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. We will take no retaliatory action against you if you make such complaints.

The contact information for both is included below.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Secretary
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201
Tel: (202) 619-0257
Toll Free: 1-877-696-6775
<http://www.hhs.gov/contacts>

BLA Partners, LLC

Privacy Officer
Courthouse Plaza, Ste. 226
199 Main Street
Burlington, VT 05401
844-850-7180

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES AVAILABILITY

This notice will be prominently posted in the office where registration occurs. You will be provided a hard copy, at the time we first deliver services to you. Thereafter, you may obtain a copy upon request, and the notice will be maintained on BLA Partners, LLC's Web site for download