

HIPAA - Sharing Health Information with Family Members and Friends

What Happens if You Want to Share Health Information with a Family Member or a Friend? HIPAA requires most doctors, nurses, hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care providers to protect the privacy of your health information. However, if you don't object, a health care provider or health plan may share relevant information with family members or friends involved in your health care or payment for your health care in certain circumstances.

When Your Health Information Can be Shared

Under HIPAA, your health care provider may share your information face-to-face, over the phone, or in writing. A health care provider or health plan may share relevant information if you give your provider or plan permission to share the information. You are present and do not object to sharing the information.

You are not present, and the provider determines based on professional judgment that it's in your best interest. Examples: An emergency room doctor may discuss your treatment in front of your friend when you ask your friend to come into the treatment room. Your hospital may discuss your bill with your daughter who is with you and has a question about the charges, if you do not object. Your doctor may discuss the drugs you need to take with your health aide who has come with you to your appointment. Your nurse may not discuss your condition with your brother if you tell her not to.

HIPAA also allows health care providers to give prescription drugs, medical supplies, x-rays, and other health care items to a family member, friend, or other person you send to pick them up.

A health care provider or health plan may also share relevant information if you are not around or cannot give permission when a health care provider or plan representative believes, based on professional judgment, that sharing the information is in your best interest.

For more information about sharing your health information with family members and friends, or more information about HIPAA, visit www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/index.html.

HIPPA - Your Health Information Privacy Rights

You can ask to see or get a copy of your medical record and other health information. If you want a copy, you may have to put your request in writing and pay for the cost of copying and mailing. In most cases, your copies must be given to you within 30 days. You can ask to change any wrong information in your file or add information to your file if you think something is missing or incomplete. For example, if you and your hospital agree that your file has the wrong result for a test, the hospital must change it. Even if the hospital believes the test result is correct, you still have the right to have your disagreement noted in your file. In most cases, the file should be updated within 60 days.

By law, your health information can be used and shared for specific reasons not directly related to your care, like making sure doctors give good care, making sure nursing homes are clean

and safe, reporting when the flu is in your area, or reporting as required by state or federal law. In many of these cases, you can find out who has seen your health information. You can: Learn how your health information is used and shared by your doctor or health insurer. Generally, your health information cannot be used for purposes not directly related to your care without your permission. For example, your doctor cannot give it to your employer, or share it for things like marketing and advertising, without your written authorization. You probably received a notice telling you how your health information may be used on your first visit to a new health care provider or when you got new health insurance, but you can ask for another copy anytime. Let your providers or health insurance companies know if there is information you do not want to share. You can ask that your health information not be shared with certain people, groups, or companies. If you go to a clinic, for example, you can ask the doctor not to share your medical records with other doctors or nurses at the clinic. You can ask for other kinds of restrictions, but they do not always have to agree to do what you ask, particularly if it could affect your care. Finally, you can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacy not to tell your health insurance company about care you receive or drugs you take, if you pay for the care or drugs in full and the provider or pharmacy does not need to get paid by your insurance company. Ask to be reached somewhere other than home. For example, you can ask to have a nurse call you at your office instead of your home or to send mail to you in an envelope instead of on a postcard. If you think your rights are being denied or your health information is not being protected, you have the right to file a complaint with your provider, health insurer, or the US Department of Health and Human Services. Visit www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/.

Treatment Agreement

Privacy Policy and Client Rights and Responsibilities: The privacy of your medical information is important to us and we are committed to protecting it. A record of your care will be created for the services received while a patient at our office. This record is necessary to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. Your medical information may be disclosed to other treating providers at your request, your insurance company to assist in payment of your claim and to pharmacies to assist in obtaining your medications. Full notice of our privacy policy is posted in our office. You're being given a copy of your rights and responsibilities. My signature on this form acknowledges I have read this policy and I've been informed of the privacy policy of this office.

Complaints, Grievances, or alleged violations of rights: I have received a copy of the procedure to report a complaint, grievance or rights violation and understand its contents.

You've the right to file a complaint with us about our privacy practices or comply with our notice of privacy practices, our privacy policies and procedures, or federal or state privacy rules of law. The contact information to do so is: Minnesota Department of Health and Human Service, 540 Cedar St, St Paul, MN 55101, (651) 431-2000.

Mental Health Services: I give permission to WebMed LLC to evaluate, administer diagnostic testing, prescribe medication, provide psychotherapy, develop a treatment plan and provide treatment with my participation. I understand that the practice of medicine and psychotherapy is

not an exact science and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me as the result of assessment or treatment in this facility. After Hours Emergency: If there is an after hours emergency, I can call 911, go to a local emergency room or call a crisis line. I've been giving information about crisis assistance.