



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
EL PASO

**GROUP HEALTH PLAN NOTICE
OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
EFFECTIVE: APRIL 14, 2003
REVISED: MAY 1, 2017**

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

ABOUT THIS NOTICE:

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Group Health Plan is dedicated to maintaining the privacy of your Protected Health Information (PHI). TTUHSC El Paso Group Health Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of your PHI and provide you with notice of its legal duties and privacy practices. This notice of privacy practices describes how TTUHSC El Paso Group Health Plan may use or disclose your PHI. PHI includes any information that relates to (1) your past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition; (2) providing health care to you; and (3) the past, present, or future payment for your health care. The terms of this notice shall apply to TTUHSC El Paso's Group Health Plan privacy practices.

GROUP HEALTH PLAN PRIVACY 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, within 15 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 as long as the information is kept by or for the Plan. 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 communication.** 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 and 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, you can ask us not to share that 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 will provide accounting once 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 this notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.
- **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 may file a complaint in one of the following ways:
 - Contact the TTUHSC El Paso Group Health Plan privacy official at the address indicated below
 - Use our confidential website at www.Ethicspoint.com
 - Contact The Office for Civil Rights:
 - United States Department of Health and Human Services
 - 1301 Young Street, Suite 1169, Dallas, Texas
 - 75202 www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/

We will not retaliate or take action 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, and we will follow your instructions.

- **In these cases, you have both the right and 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.
 - Include your information in a hospital directory.
 - If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may 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

TTUHSC EL PASO GROUP HEALTH PLAN USES AND DISCLOSURES:

How do we typically use or share your health information? The following uses do **NOT** require your authorization, except where required by Texas Law. Your medical information may be shared in either printed or electronic format, or both.

- **Treat you.** We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you. For example, a doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.
- **Run our organization.** We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary. For example, we use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.
- **Bill for your services.** We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities. For example, we give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.
- **Administration of Group Health Plan.** The Plan may disclose PHI to TTUHSC El Paso if the information is needed to carry out administrative functions of the Plan, like obtaining premiums.
- **In the case of fundraising.** We may use your PHI to contact you for fundraising efforts. We must include in any fundraising material you receive a description of how you may opt out of receiving future fundraising communications.
- **How else can we use or share your health information?** We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways-usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html
 - **Help with public health and safety issues.**
 - We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:
 - Preventing disease
 - Helping with product recalls
 - Reporting adverse reactions to medications
 - Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
 - Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety
 - **Conducting Research.** We can use or share your information for health research.

- **Comply with the law.** We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.
- **Respond to organ and tissue donation requests.** We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- **Work with a medical examiner or funeral director.** We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.
- **Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government request.**
 - We can use or share health information about you:
 - For workers' compensation claims
 - For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
 - With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
 - For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services
- **Respond to lawsuits and legal actions.** We can use or share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

TTUHSC El Paso Group Health Plan may use health information exchange systems to electronically transmit, receive and/or access your medical information which may include, but is not limited to, treatments, prescriptions, labs, medical and prescription history, and other health care information.

TTUHSC EL PASO GROUP HEALTH PLANS RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html

CHANGE IN NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES:

TTUHSC El Paso Group Health Plan reserves the right to 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 website.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions about this notice or would like additional information, please contact the privacy official at the address and telephone number listed below or you may visit our web site at <http://elpaso.ttuhs.edu/hipaa>.

PRIVACY OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>TTUHSC EL PASO PRIVACY OFFICER 5001 EL PASO DRIVE EL PASO, TX 79905 (915) 215-4454</p>

www.Ethicspoint.com