



Policy Name: Notice of Privacy Practices Policy	Policy Number: Information 114
Approval Body: Community Health Service Inc. Board of Directors	Page 1 of 2
Date(s) Approved/Reviewed May 20, 2014	Version Number: 1.0
Review Date: April 26, 2016, April 17, 2018	

1.0 Policy and Procedure Overview

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), requires each patient be offered a Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) of Community Health Service Inc. (CHSI)

The goal of the NPP is to inform patients:

- How CHSI will use and disclosure a patient's Protected Health Information (PHI);
- The patient's rights and responsibilities with respect to his/her PHI; and
- The covered entity's duties with respect to a patient's PHI.

This Policy describes how CHSI's NPP is provided to our patients and acknowledged, and who to contact with questions about the NPP.

2.0 Responsibilities

2.1 Board of Directors – The Board of Directors is responsible for the approval of this policy and procedure on a bi-annual basis (2 years).

2.2 Privacy Officer - The Operation Directors is designated as the Privacy Officer and is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Notice of Privacy Practices Policy. New employees will be trained on the Notice of Privacy Practices Policy at their respective location upon-hire. The Privacy Officer shall also be responsible for reporting any changes in this document to the Board of Directors and notifying employees of any changes to the Notice of Privacy Practices Policy.

2.3 CHSI Employees - All employees are required to comply with the guidelines set forth in this policy.

3.0 Policy

CHSI offers every patient a Notice of Privacy Practices that describes how their Protected Health Information (PHI) may be used and disclosed, the rights and responsibilities of patients with respect to their PHI, and the responsibilities of CHSI with respect to PHI it creates, collects, and maintains.

4.0 Procedure

4.1 Each patient that receives healthcare services at CHSI will be offered and will acknowledge offer of the NPP.

4.1.1 Patients are offered a copy of the NPP upon annual registration. The offer of the NPP will be signed on an annual basis and scanned into the patient record.

4.2 Posting

4.2.1 The notice shall also be posted on CHSI's website and locations.

4.3 Requests for a NPP - If any individual requests a copy of the CHSI NPP, the person receiving the request should provide him/her with one.

4.4 Questions - Questions about the NPP or its contents should be directed to the Privacy Officer. Questions about the distribution and acknowledgment process should be directed to the Privacy Officer.

5.0 Enforcement

Any party found to have violated this policy and procedure may be subjected to coaching or discipline as defined in the Employee HIPAA Sanction Policy.

6.0 Timing and Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or upon changes in CHSI's Systems or State and/or Federal regulations.

ATTACHMENT: NPP



810 4th Ave S. #101, Moorhead, MN 56560 1-800-842-8693 Privacy Officer

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

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 a limited summary copy through the patient portal 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, usually within 30 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. 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 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.

Ask us to limit what we use or 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'll provide one accounting 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 the 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 can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1.
- 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/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/.
- We will not retaliate 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

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and 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
- Share any substance abuse treatment records

In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

Our Uses and Disclosures

How do we typically 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.

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

Treat you

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

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.

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.

Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.

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

Do 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 requests

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 share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

Our 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.

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.