

## **NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVERED PERSONS MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW COVERED PERSONS CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

This Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”) describes how protected health information may be used or disclosed by this Plan to carry out treatment, payment, health care operations and for other purposes that are permitted or required by law. This Notice also sets out this Plan’s legal obligations concerning a Covered Person’s protected health information and describes a Covered Person’s rights to access, amend and manage that protected health information.

Protected health information (“PHI”) is individually identifiable health information, including demographic information, collected from a Covered Person or created or received by a health care provider, a health plan, an employer (when functioning on behalf of the group health plan), or a health care clearinghouse and that relates to: (1) a Covered Person’s past, present or future physical or mental health or condition; (2) the provision of health care to a Covered Person; or (3) the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to a Covered Person.

This Notice has been drafted to be consistent with what is known as the “HIPAA Privacy Rule,” and any of the terms not defined in this Notice should have the same meaning as they have in the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

If You have any questions or want additional information about the Notice or the policies and procedures described in the Notice, please contact the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan’s Summary Plan Description.

### **THE PLAN’S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Plan is required by law to maintain the privacy of a Covered Person’s PHI. The Plan is obligated to provide the Covered Person with a copy of this Notice of the Plan’s legal duties and of its privacy practices with respect to the Covered Person’s PHI, abide by the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect, and notify the Covered Person in the event of a breach of the Covered Person’s unsecured PHI. The Plan reserves the right to change the provisions of this Notice and make the new provisions effective for all PHI that is maintained. If the Plan makes a material change to this Notice, a revised Notice will be mailed to the address that the Plan has on record.

When using or disclosing PHI or when requesting PHI from another covered entity, the Plan will make reasonable efforts not to use, disclose or request more than the minimum amount of PHI necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use, disclosure or request, taking into consideration practical and technological limitations.

Genetic information shall be treated as health information pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The use or disclosure by the Plan of protected health information that is genetic information about an individual for underwriting purposes under the Plan shall not be a permitted use or disclosure.

However, the minimum necessary standard will not apply in the following situations:

- disclosures to or requests by a health care provider for treatment;
- uses or disclosures made to the individual;
- disclosures made to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- uses or disclosures that are required by law;
- uses or disclosures that are required for compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule; and
- uses or disclosures made pursuant to an authorization.

This Notice does not apply to information that has been de-identified. De-identified information is health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual. It is not individually identifiable health information.

## **PERMISSIBLE USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI**

The following is a description of how the Plan is most likely to use and/or disclose a Covered Person's PHI.

### **TREATMENT, PAYMENT AND HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS**

The Plan has the right to use and disclose a Covered Person's PHI for all activities that are included within the definitions of "treatment, payment and health care operations" as described in the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

#### **TREATMENT**

The Plan will use or disclose PHI so that a Covered Person may seek treatment. Treatment is the provision, coordination or management of health care and related services. It also includes, but is not limited to consultations and referrals between one or more of a Covered Person's providers. For example, the Plan may disclose to a treating specialist the name of a Covered Person's primary care physician so that the specialist may request medical records from that primary care physician.

#### **PAYMENT**

The Plan will use or disclose PHI to pay claims for services provided to a Covered Person and to obtain stop-loss reimbursements, if applicable, or to otherwise fulfill the Plan's responsibilities for coverage and providing benefits. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI when a provider requests information regarding a Covered Person's eligibility for coverage under this Plan, or the Plan may use PHI to determine if a treatment that was received was medically necessary.

#### **HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS**

The Plan will use or disclose PHI to support its business functions. These functions include, but are not limited to quality assessment and improvement, reviewing provider performance, licensing, stop-loss underwriting, business planning and business development. For example, the Plan may use or disclose PHI: (1) to provide a Covered Person with information about a disease management program; (2) to respond to a customer service inquiry from a Covered Person or (3) in connection with fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs.

## **POTENTIAL IMPACT OF STATE LAW**

The HIPAA Privacy Regulations generally do not "preempt" (or take precedence over) state privacy or other applicable laws that provide individuals greater privacy protections. As a result, to the extent state law applies, the privacy laws of a particular state, or other federal laws, rather than the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, might impose a privacy standard under which the Plan will be required to operate. For example, where such laws have been enacted, the Plan will follow more stringent state privacy laws that relate to uses and disclosures of PHI concerning HIV or AIDS, mental health, substance abuse/chemical dependency, genetic testing, reproductive rights, etc.

## **OTHER PERMISSIBLE USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI**

The following is a description of other possible ways in which the Plan may (and is permitted to) use and/or disclose PHI.

## **REQUIRED BY LAW**

The Plan may use or disclose PHI to the extent the law requires the use or disclosure. When used in this Notice, “required by law” is defined as it is in the HIPAA Privacy Rule. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI when required by national security laws or public health disclosure laws.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES**

The Plan may use or disclose PHI for public health activities that are permitted or required by law. For example, the Plan may use or disclose information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, or it may disclose such information to a public health authority authorized to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. The Plan also may disclose PHI, if directed by a public health authority, to a foreign government agency that is collaborating with the public health authority.

## **HEALTH OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES**

The Plan may disclose PHI to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as: audits; investigations; inspections; licensure or disciplinary actions; or civil, administrative, or criminal proceedings or actions. Oversight agencies seeking this information include government agencies that oversee: (1) the health care system; (2) government benefit programs; (3) other government regulatory programs and (4) compliance with civil rights laws.

## **ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

The Plan may disclose PHI to a government authority that is authorized by law to receive reports of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Additionally, as required by law, the Plan may disclose to a governmental entity, authorized to receive such information, a Covered Person’s PHI if there is reason to believe that the Covered Person has been a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

## **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Plan may disclose PHI: (1) in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding; (2) in response to an order of a court or administrative tribunal (to the extent such disclosure is expressly authorized) and (3) in response to a subpoena, a discovery request, or other lawful process, once the Plan has met all administrative requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI in response to a subpoena for such information, but only after first meeting certain conditions required by the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Under certain conditions, the Plan also may disclose PHI to law enforcement officials. For example, some of the reasons for such a disclosure may include, but not be limited to: (1) it is required by law or some other legal process; (2) it is necessary to locate or identify a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person or (3) it is necessary to provide evidence of a crime.

## **CORONERS, MEDICAL EXAMINERS, FUNERAL DIRECTORS, AND ORGAN DONATION ORGANIZATIONS**

The Plan may disclose PHI to a coroner or medical examiner for purposes of identifying a deceased person, determining a cause of death or for the coroner or medical examiner to perform other duties authorized by law. The Plan also may disclose, as authorized by law, information to funeral directors so that they may carry out their duties. Further, the Plan may disclose PHI to organizations that handle organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation.

## **RESEARCH**

The Plan may disclose PHI to researchers when an institutional review board or privacy board has: (1) reviewed the research proposal and established protocols to ensure the privacy of the information and (2) approved the research.

## **TO PREVENT A SERIOUS THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY**

Consistent with applicable federal and state laws, the Plan may disclose PHI if there is reason to believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public. The Plan also may disclose PHI if it is necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

## **MILITARY ACTIVITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY, PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Under certain conditions, the Plan may disclose PHI if Covered Persons are, or were, Armed Forces personnel for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities. If Covered Persons are members of foreign military service, the Plan may disclose, in certain circumstances, PHI to the foreign military authority. The Plan also may disclose PHI to authorized federal officials for conducting national security and intelligence activities, and for the protection of the President, other authorized persons or heads of state.

## **INMATES**

If a Covered Person is an inmate of a correctional institution, the Plan may disclose PHI to the correctional institution or to a law enforcement official for: (1) the institution to provide health care to the Covered Person; (2) the Covered Person's health and safety and the health and safety of others or (3) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The Plan may disclose PHI to comply with workers' compensation laws and other similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses.

## **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

The Plan may disclose PHI of a Covered Person in an emergency situation, or if the Covered Person is incapacitated or not present, to a family member, close personal friend, authorized disaster relief agency, or any other person previously identified by the Covered Person. The Plan will use professional judgment and experience to determine if the disclosure is in the best interests of the Covered Person. If the disclosure is in the best interest of the Covered Person, the Plan will disclose only the PHI that is directly relevant to the person's involvement in the care of the Covered Person.

## **FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

The Plan may use or disclose the PHI of a Covered Person for fundraising activities, such as raising money for a charitable foundation or similar entity to help finance its activities. If the Plan does contact the Covered Person for fundraising activities, the Plan will give the Covered Person the opportunity to opt-out, or stop, receiving such communications in the future.

## **GROUP HEALTH PLAN DISCLOSURES**

The Plan may disclose the PHI of a Covered Person to a sponsor of the group health plan – such as an employer or other entity – that is providing a health care program to the Covered Person. The Plan can disclose the PHI of the Covered Person to that entity if that entity has contracted with the Plan to administer the Covered Person's health care program on its behalf.

## **UNDERWRITING PURPOSES**

The Plan may use or disclose the PHI of a Covered Person for underwriting purposes, such as to make a determination about a coverage application or request. If the Plan does use or disclose the PHI of the Covered Person for underwriting purposes, the Plan is prohibited from using or disclosing in the underwriting process the PHI of the Covered Person that is genetic information.

## **OTHERS INVOLVED IN YOUR HEALTH CARE**

Using its best judgment, the Plan may make PHI known to a family member, other relative, close personal friend or other personal representative that the Covered Person identifies. Such use will be based on how involved the person is in the Covered Person's care or in the payment that relates to that care. The Plan may release information to parents or guardians, if allowed by law.

If a Covered Person is not present or able to agree to these disclosures of PHI, then, using its professional judgment, the Plan may determine whether the disclosure is in the Covered Person's best interest.

## **REQUIRED DISCLOSURES OF PHI**

The following is a description of disclosures that the Plan is required by law to make.

### **DISCLOSURES TO THE SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The Plan is required to disclose PHI to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services when the Secretary is investigating or determining the Plan's compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

### **DISCLOSURES TO COVERED PERSONS**

The Plan is required to disclose to a Covered Person most of the PHI in a "designated record set" when that Covered Person requests access to this information. Generally, a designated record set contains medical and billing records, as well as other records that are used to make decisions about a Covered Person's health care benefits. The Plan also is required to provide, upon the Covered Person's request, an accounting of most disclosures of his PHI that are for reasons other than treatment, payment and health care operations and are not disclosed through a signed authorization.

The Plan will disclose a Covered Person's PHI to an individual who has been designated by that Covered Person as his personal representative and who has qualified for such designation in accordance with relevant state law. However, before the Plan will disclose PHI to such a person, the Covered Person must submit a written notice of his designation, along with the documentation that supports his qualification (such as a power of attorney).

Even if the Covered Person designates a personal representative, the HIPAA Privacy Rule permits the Plan to elect not to treat that individual as the Covered Person's personal representative if a reasonable belief exists that: (1) the Covered Person has been, or may be, subjected to domestic violence, abuse or neglect by such person; (2) treating such person as his personal representative could endanger the Covered Person, or (3) the Plan determines, in the exercise of its professional judgment, that it is not in its best interest to treat that individual as the Covered Person's personal representative.

### **BUSINESS ASSOCIATES**

The Plan contracts with individuals and entities (Business Associates) to perform various functions on its behalf or to provide certain types of services. To perform these functions or to provide the services, the Plan's Business Associates will receive, create, maintain, use or disclose PHI, but only after the Plan requires the Business Associates to agree in writing to contract terms designed to appropriately safeguard PHI. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI to a Business Associate to administer claims or to provide service support, utilization management, subrogation or pharmacy benefit management. Examples of the Plan's Business Associates would be its third party administrator, broker, preferred provider organization and utilization review vendor.

### **OTHER COVERED ENTITIES**

The Plan may use or disclose PHI to assist health care providers in connection with their treatment or payment activities or to assist other covered entities in connection with payment activities and certain health care operations. For example, the Plan may disclose PHI to a health care provider when needed by the provider to render treatment to a Covered Person, and the Plan may disclose PHI to another covered entity to conduct health care operations in the areas of fraud and abuse detection or compliance, quality assurance and improvement activities or accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing. This also means that the Plan may disclose or share PHI with other

insurance carriers in order to coordinate benefits, if a Covered Person has coverage through another carrier.

### **PLAN SPONSOR**

The Plan may disclose PHI to the Plan Sponsor of the group health plan for purposes of plan administration or pursuant to an authorization request signed by the Covered Person. Also, the Plan may use or disclose “summary health information” to the Plan Sponsor for obtaining premium bids or modifying, amending or terminating the group health plan. Summary health information summarizes the claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced by individuals for whom a Plan Sponsor has provided health benefits under a group health plan and from which identifying information has been deleted in accordance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

## **USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PHI THAT REQUIRE A COVERED PERSON’S AUTHORIZATION**

### **SALE OF PHI**

The Plan will request the written authorization of a Covered Person before the Plan makes any disclosure that is deemed a sale of the Covered Person’s PHI, meaning that the Plan is receiving compensation for disclosing the PHI in this manner.

### **MARKETING**

The Plan will request the written authorization of a Covered Person to use or disclose the Covered Person’s PHI for marketing purposes with limited exceptions, such as when the Plan has face-to-face marketing communications with the Covered Person or when the Plan provides promotional gifts of nominal value.

### **PSYCHOTHERAPY NOTES**

The Plan will request the written authorization of a Covered Person to use or disclose any of the Covered Person’s psychotherapy notes that the Plan may have on file with limited exception, such as for certain treatment, payment or health care operation functions.

Other uses and disclosures of PHI that are not described previously will be made only with a Covered Person’s written authorization. If the Covered Person provides the Plan with such an authorization, he/she may revoke the authorization in writing, and this revocation will be effective for future uses and disclosures of PHI. However, the revocation will not be effective for information that has already been used or disclosed, relying on the authorization.

## **A COVERED PERSON’S RIGHTS**

The following is a description of a Covered Person’s rights with respect to PHI:

### **RIGHT TO REQUEST A RESTRICTION**

A Covered Person has the right to request a restriction on the PHI the Plan uses or discloses about him/her for treatment, payment or health care operations. The Plan is not required to agree to any restriction that a Covered Person may request. If the Plan does agree to the restriction, it will comply with the restriction unless the information is needed to provide emergency treatment.

A Covered Person may request a restriction by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan’s Summary Plan Description. It is important that the Covered Person directs his request for restriction to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process Your request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

The Plan will want to receive this information in writing and will instruct the Covered Person where to send the request when the Covered Person’s call is received. In this request, it is

important that the Covered Person states: (1) the information whose disclosure he/she wants to limit and (2) how he/she wants to limit the Plan's use and/or disclosure of the information.

### **RIGHT TO REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

If a Covered Person believes that a disclosure of all or part of his PHI may endanger him/her, that Covered Person may request that the Plan communicates with him/her regarding PHI in an alternative manner or at an alternative location. For example, the Covered Person may ask that the Plan only contact the Covered Person at a work address or via the Covered Person's work e-mail.

The Covered Person may request a restriction by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. It is important that the request for confidential communications is addressed to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

The Plan will want to receive this information in writing and will instruct the Covered Person where to send a written request upon receiving a call. This written request should inform the Plan: (1) that he/she wants the Plan to communicate his PHI in an alternative manner or at an alternative location and (2) that the disclosure of all or part of this PHI in a manner inconsistent with these instructions would put the Covered Person in danger.

The Plan will accommodate a request for confidential communications that is reasonable and that states that the disclosure of all or part of a Covered Person's PHI could endanger that Covered Person. As permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule, "reasonableness" will (and is permitted to) include, when appropriate, making alternate arrangements regarding payment.

Accordingly, as a condition of granting a Covered Person's request, he/she will be required to provide the Plan information concerning how payment will be handled. For example, if the Covered Person submits a claim for payment, state or federal law (or the Plan's own contractual obligations) may require that the Plan disclose certain financial claim information to the Plan Participant under whose coverage a Covered Person may receive benefits (e.g., an Explanation of Benefits "EOB"). Unless the Covered Person has made other payment arrangements, the EOB (in which a Covered Person's PHI might be included) will be released to the Plan Participant.

Once the Plan receives all the information for such a request (along with the instructions for handling future communications), the request will be processed usually within 2 business days or as soon as reasonably possible.

Prior to receiving the information necessary for this request, or during the time it takes to process it, PHI may be disclosed (such as through an EOB). Therefore, it is extremely important that the Covered Person contact the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description at the beginning of this document as soon as the Covered Person determines the need to restrict disclosures of his PHI.

If the Covered Person terminates his request for confidential communications, the restriction will be removed for all of the Covered Person's PHI that the Plan holds, including PHI that was previously protected. Therefore, a Covered Person should not terminate a request for confidential communications if that person remains concerned that disclosure of PHI will endanger him/her.

### **RIGHT TO INSPECT AND COPY**

A Covered Person has the right to inspect and copy PHI that is contained in a "designated record set." Generally, a designated record set contains medical and billing records, as well as other records that are used to make decisions about a Covered Person's health care benefits. However, the Covered Person may not inspect or copy psychotherapy notes or certain other information that may be contained in a designated record set.

To inspect and copy PHI that is contained in a designated record set, the Covered Person must submit a request by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. It is important that the Covered Person contact this individual or office to request an inspection and copying so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay the processing of the request. If the Covered Person requests a copy of the information, the Plan may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with that request.

The Plan may deny a Covered Person's request to inspect and copy PHI in certain limited circumstances. If a Covered Person is denied access to information, he/she may request that the denial be reviewed. To request a review, the Covered Person must contact the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. A licensed health care professional chosen by the Plan will review the Covered Person's request and the denial. The person performing this review will not be the same one who denied the Covered Person's initial request. Under certain conditions, the Plan's denial will not be reviewable. If this event occurs, the Plan will inform the Covered Person through the denial that the decision is not reviewable.

### **RIGHT TO AMEND**

If a Covered Person believes that his PHI is incorrect or incomplete, he/she may request that the Plan amend that information. The Covered Person may request that the Plan amend such information by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description.

Additionally, this request should include the reason the amendment is necessary. It is important that the Covered Person direct this request for amendment to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

In certain cases, the Plan may deny the Covered Person's request for an amendment. For example, the Plan may deny the request if the information the Covered Person wants to amend is not maintained by the Plan, but by another entity. If the Plan denies the request, the Covered Person has the right to file a statement of disagreement with the Plan. This statement of disagreement will be linked with the disputed information and all future disclosures of the disputed information will include this statement.

### **RIGHT OF AN ACCOUNTING**

The Covered Person has a right to an accounting of certain disclosures of PHI that are for reasons other than treatment, payment or health care operations. No accounting of disclosures is required for disclosures made pursuant to a signed authorization by the Covered Person or his personal representative. The Covered Person should know that most disclosures of PHI will be for purposes of payment or health care operations, and, therefore, will not be subject to this right. There also are other exceptions to this right.

An accounting will include the date(s) of the disclosure, to whom the Plan made the disclosure, a brief description of the information disclosed and the purpose for the disclosure.

A Covered Person may request an accounting by submitting a request in writing to the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. It is important that the Covered Person direct the request for an accounting to this individual or office so that the Plan can begin to process the request. Requests sent to individuals or offices other than the one indicated might delay processing the request.

A Covered Person's request may be for disclosures made up to 6 years before the date of the request, but not for disclosures made before April 14, 2004. The first list requested within a 12-



month period will be free. For additional lists, the Plan may charge for the costs of providing the list. The Plan will notify the Covered Person of the cost involved and he/she may choose to withdraw or modify the request before any costs are incurred.

#### **RIGHT TO A COPY OF THIS NOTICE**

The Covered Person has the right to request a copy of this Notice at any time by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. If you receive this Notice on the Plan's website or by electronic mail, you also are entitled to request a paper copy of this Notice.

#### **COMPLAINTS**

A Covered Person may complain to the Plan if he/she believes that the Plan has violated these privacy rights. The Covered Person may file a complaint with the Plan by contacting the person(s) or office identified under Plan Contact Information in the Key Information section of this Plan's Summary Plan Description. A copy of a complaint form is available from this contact office.

A Covered Person also may file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Complaints filed directly with the Secretary must: (1) be in writing; (2) contain the name of the entity against which the complaint is lodged; (3) describe the relevant problems and (4) be filed within 180 days of the time the Covered Person became or should have become aware of the problem.

The Plan will not penalize or in any other way retaliate against a Covered Person for filing a complaint with the Secretary or with the Plan.