

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PRIVACY NOTICE—Abbreviated Version

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.

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) is committed to protecting your health information. ADH is required by law to protect the privacy of health information about you and that can be identified with you, which we call “protected health information,” or “PHI” for short. We must give you notice of our legal duties and privacy practices concerning PHI, and we are required to abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. This notice is to inform you about our privacy practices and legal duties related to the protection of the privacy of your medical/health records that we create or receive.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

ADH staff will only use your PHI when doing their jobs. The purposes of the use and sharing of PHI are for treatment, payment for services and for Agency operations.

Treatment: Caregivers, such as nurses, doctors, therapists, nutritionists and social workers, may use your PHI to determine your plan of care. Individuals and programs within the ADH may share PHI about you in order to coordinate the services you may need, such as clinical examinations, therapy, nutritional services, medications, hospitalization, or follow-up care.

For Payment: The ADH may release PHI about you to Medicaid, Medicare, and/or your health plan/insurance carrier to obtain payment for our services. For example, we may need to give your health plan PHI about a clinical exam or vaccinations that you or your child received, so your health plan or Medicaid or Medicare will pay us for treatment or services.

For Operations: The ADH may use and release PHI about you to ensure that the services and benefits provided to you are appropriate. For example, we may use your PHI to evaluate our treatment and service programs (quality assurance). We may combine PHI about many individuals to research health trends, to determine what services and programs should be offered, or whether new treatments or services are useful. We may share your PHI with business partners who perform functions on behalf of the ADH. For example, our business partners may use your PHI to perform case management, coordination of care, or other activities, and they must abide by the same level of confidentiality and security as ADH when handling your PHI.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS

Release of your PHI outside of the boundaries of ADH-related treatment, payment, or operations, or as otherwise permitted by state or federal law, will be made *only* with your specific written authorization. This authorization is required to release the following types of information: Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Family Planning, HIV/AIDS, Mental Illness, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program. You may revoke specific authorizations to release your PHI, in writing, at any time. If you revoke an authorization, we will no longer release your PHI to the authorized recipient(s), except to the extent that the ADH has already used or released that information in reliance of the original authorization. In addition, you have the following rights:

Right to Inspect and Copy: You may request to inspect or have a copy of any part of your health record. We may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request.

Right to Request Amendment: If you feel that the PHI the ADH has created about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend that information. The ADH may deny your request if you ask to amend information that: 1) was not created by the ADH; 2) is not part of the PHI kept by the ADH; 3) is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect or copy; or 4) the information is determined to be accurate and complete.

Right to Request an Accounting of Health Information Releases: You may request an accounting of disclosures of your health information. The accounting does not include disclosures for purposes of treatment, payment, health care operations; disclosures required by law for purposes of national security; disclosures to jails or correctional facilities, authorized disclosures, and any disclosures made prior to April 14, 2003.

Right to Request Restrictions: You may request ADH to limit the use or disclosure of your PHI except for treatment, payment, and health care operations. ADH is not required by law to agree to your request.

Right to Request Confidential Communication: You may request, in writing, that ADH communicate with you in a different way or to a different location, for example, using a different mailing address or calling you at a different phone number.

Right to a Paper Copy of this Privacy Notice: You may request a paper copy of this Privacy Notice from ADH at any time.

All requests for inspecting, copying, amending, making restrictions, or obtaining an accounting of your PHI and any questions regarding this Privacy Notice must be directed to the Local Health Unit Administrator.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the ADH by contacting the ADH HIPAA Program Consultant at (501) 661-2000 or by mail by writing to 4815 West Markham, Slot 31, Little Rock, AR 72205. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you request, we will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. No action will be taken against you for exercising your rights or for filing a complaint.