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 Information.**

**Your Rights.**

**Our Responsibilities.**

**You have the right to:**

☞Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record

☞Correct your paper or electronic medical record

☞Request confidential communication

☞Ask us to limit the information we share

☞Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared your information

☞Get a copy of this privacy notice

☞Choose someone to act for you

☞File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

**☞See page 2 for more information on these rights and how to exercise them**

**You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:**

☞Tell family and friends about your condition

☞Provide disaster relief

☞Provide mental health care

☞Market our services and sell your information

☞Raise funds

**☞See page 3 for more information on these choices and how to exercise them**

**We may use and share your information as we:**

☞Treat you

☞Run our organization

☞Bill for your services

☞ ☞Help with public health and safety issues

☞Do research

☞Comply with the law

☞Work with a funeral director

☞Address law enforcement, and other government requests

☞Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

**☞See pages 3 and 4 for more information on these uses and disclosures**

**When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights.** This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

⦁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, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost based fee.

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Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record

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⦁ 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.

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Ask us to correct your medical record

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⦁ You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or send mail to a different address.

⦁We will say “yes” to all reasonable requests.

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Request confidential communications

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⦁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 must 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.

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Ask us to limit what we use or share

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⦁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.

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Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information

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⦁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.

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Get a copy of this privacy notice

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⦁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.

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Choose someone to act for you

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⦁You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by sending a letter to **Kathryn Egbert, Privacy Officer CROSS MHDS Region 125 South Grand Chariton, IA 50049, calling 1-641-774-0423 or emailing us through our website at** [**www.crossmentalhealth.org**](http://www.crossmentalhealth.org) **.**

⦁You can also 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/complaint/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaint/).

⦁We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

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File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

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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.

Your Choices

**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 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.*

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**In these cases we *never* share your information unless you give us written permission:**

⦁Marketing Purposes

⦁Sale of your information

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**How do we typically use or share your health information?**

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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. |

**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](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

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| --- | --- |
| **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. |
|  |  |
| **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 law enforcement, and other government requests** | ⦁ We can use or share health information about you:    ⦁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. |

*We do not maintain or create psychotherapy notes at our place of business.*

*In Iowa, disclosure of mental health and psychological information is governed by Iowa Code §228. We will never disclose any mental health or psychological information without your written permission, or the permission of your parent or guardian. There are exceptions the Iowa statutes for example: if you tell us you are going to hurt yourself or someone else we are required by law to report it to law enforcement. Under Iowa law psychotherapy notes cannot be shared for any reason.*

*Substance related disorder information is governed by Iowa Code §125.33(1). We will never disclose any substance related disorder information without your written permission. If the substance related disorder information is about a minor the information will only be released with the permission of the minor it relates to. There are exceptions the Iowa statutes for example: if you tell us you are going to hurt yourself or someone else we are required by law to report it to law enforcement.*

*We do not maintain a hospital Directory.*

**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](http://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.

**Effective Date: 10/31/2017**

**This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the following organizations:**

Clarke County Social Services Decatur County Social Services

100 S. Main 201 NE Idaho ST

Osceola, IA 50213 Leon, IA 50144

Lucas County Community Services Monroe County Community Services

125 S. Grand, 1801 S. B St

Chariton, IA 50049 Albia, IA 52531

Marion County Public Health

203 N Lincoln

Knoxville, IA 50138

Ringgold County Public Health Wayne County Community Services

119 South Fillmore 101 N. Lafayette

Mount Ayr, IA 50854 Corydon, IA 50060