

Mary Washington Health Plan

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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 a copy of your health and claims records

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records and other health information we have about you.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct health and claims records

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say “no” to your request, but we will 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 consider all reasonable requests, and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

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.

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 one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

YOUR RIGHTS *(continued)*

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.

To exercise any of the rights described above, please contact the Privacy Officer and obtain the required forms. You may be asked to submit your request in writing.

You may contact the Privacy Officer by telephone at 540.741.1821 or by mail at:

MWHP Privacy Officer
Attn: Lauren Blalock
2300 Fall Hill Avenue, Suite 509
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Complaints

- If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with MWHP or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights. To file a complaint with MWHP, please contact the Privacy Officer at:

MWHP Privacy Officer
Attn: Lauren Blalock
2300 Fall Hill Avenue, Suite 509
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540.741.1821

You may be asked to submit your complaint in writing.

- 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/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/what-to-expect/index.html.
- **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:

- Contact you for fundraising efforts
- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for 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

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

How do we typically use or share your health information?

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

Help manage the health care treatment you receive

- We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.
Example: A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.
- We can use your health information to tell you about or recommend treatment options or alternatives
- We may use and disclose medical information to tell you about health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long term care plans.

Run our organization

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary.

Pay for your health services

- We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.
Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.

Administer your plan

- We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.
Example: Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan, and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.

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:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/guidance-materials-for-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 or neglect.*
 - *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.

Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- 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*
 - *In certain instances we may release medical information if asked to do so by 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.

Business Associates

- We are permitted by law to utilize Business Associates to carry out treatment, payment, or health operations functions that may involve the use and disclosure of some of your health information. In such instances we will have entered into a formal agreement with the Business Associate that requires the Business Associate to maintain the confidentiality of any patient information received.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information. In addition to the protections described above, there are additional Federal laws and regulations that protect alcohol and drug abuse records maintained by certain treatment programs.
- 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, on our web site, and we will mail a copy to you.

Effective Date: October 15, 2022.