



Nevada Cancer
INSTITUTE
Research · Treatment · Education

Notice of Privacy Practices

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED BY THE NEVADA CANCER INSTITUTE MEDICAL GROUP AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI):

Understanding what is in your health record and how your health information is used will help you to ensure its accuracy, allow you to better understand who, what, when, where and why others may access your health information, and assist you in making more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others. When you visit us, we keep a record of your symptoms, examination, test results, diagnoses, treatment plan, and other medical information. We also may obtain health records from other providers. In using and disclosing this protected health information (PHI) we will follow the Privacy Standards of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR Part 464. The law allows us to use and disclose PHI without your specific authorization for treatment, payment, operations and other specific purposes explained on the next page. This includes contacting you for appointment reminders and follow-up care. All other uses and disclosures require your specific authorization.

YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION RIGHTS: You have the right to:

- Request a restriction on the uses and disclosures of PHI as described in this notice, although we are not required to agree to the restriction you request. You should address your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. We will notify you within 30 days if we cannot agree to the restriction.
- Obtain a paper copy of this Notice and upon written request, inspect and obtain a copy of your health record for a fee of \$.60 per page and the actual cost of postage per **NRS 629.061**, except that you are not entitled to access to, or to obtain a copy of, psychotherapy notes and information compiled for legal proceedings.
- Amend your health record by submitting a written request with the reasons supporting the request to the Privacy Officer. In most cases, we will respond within 30 days. We are not required to agree to the requested amendment.
- Obtain an accounting of disclosures of your health information, except that we are not required to account for disclosures for treatment, payment, operations, or pursuant to authorization, among other exceptions.
- Request in writing to the Privacy Officer that we communicate with you by a specific method and at a specific location. We will typically communicate with you in person; or by letter, e-mail, fax, and/or telephone.
- Revoke an authorization to use or disclose PHI at any time except where action has already been taken.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES: The law requires us to:

- Maintain the privacy of PHI and provide you with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI.
- Abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect. We have the right to change our notice of privacy practices and we will apply the change to all of your protected health information, including information obtained prior to the change.
- Post notice of any changes in our privacy policy in the lobby and make a copy available to you upon request.
- Use or disclose your health information only with your authorization except as described in this notice.
- Follow the more stringent law in any circumstance where other state or federal law may further restrict the disclosure of your health information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM, you may contact the Privacy Officer in writing at One Breakthrough Way, Las Vegas, NV 89135 or by calling 702-821-0000. If you feel your rights have been violated, you may file a complaint in writing with the Privacy Officer. If you are not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, you may also file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Filing a complaint will not result in retaliation.

We may use or disclose your protected health information for treatment, payment and operations, and for purposes described below:

Treatment: We will use and exchange information obtained by a physician, nurse practitioner, nurse or other medical professionals, staff, trainees and volunteers in our office to determine your best course of treatment. The information obtained from you or from other providers will become part of your medical records. We may also disclose your health care information to other outside treating medical professionals and staff as deemed necessary for your care. For example, we may disclose your health information to an outside doctor for referral. We will also provide your health care providers with copies of various reports to assist them in your treatment.

Payment: We may send a bill to you or to your insurance carrier. The information on or accompanying the bill may include information that identifies you, as well as that portion of your PHI necessary to obtain payment.

Health Care Operations: Members of the medical staff, trainees, medical students, a Risk or Quality Improvement team, or similar internal personnel may use your information to assess the care and outcomes of your care in an effort to improve the quality of the healthcare and service we provide or for educational purposes. For example, an internal review team may review your medical records to determine the appropriateness of care. There may also be times in which our accountants, auditors or attorneys may be required to review your health information to meet their responsibilities.

Other uses and disclosures not requiring authorization

- Business Associates: There are some services provided to our organization through contracts with business associates, such as laboratory and radiology services. We may disclose your health information to our business associates so that they can perform these services. We require the business associates to safeguard your information to our standards.
- Notification: We may disclose limited health information to friends or family members identified by you as being involved in your care or assisting you in payment. We may also notify a family member, or another person responsible for your care, about your location and general condition.
- Legally Required Disclosures, Public Health & Law Enforcement: We may disclose PHI as required by law, or in a variety of circumstances authorized by federal or state law. For example, we may disclose PHI to government officials to avert a serious threat to health or safety or for public health purposes, such as to prevent or control communicable disease (which may include notifying individuals that may have been exposed to the disease, though in such circumstance you will not be personally identified), to an employer to evaluate whether an employee has a work related injury, and to public officials to report births and deaths.
- We may disclose PHI to law enforcement such as limited information for identification and location purposes, or information regarding suspected victims of crime, including crimes committed on our premises. We may also disclose PHI to others as required by court or administrative order, or in response to a valid summons or subpoena.
- Information Regarding Decedents: We may disclose health information regarding a deceased person to: 1) coroners and medical examiners to identify cause of death or other duties, 2) funeral directors for their required duties and 3) to procurement organizations for purposes of organ and tissue donation.
- Research: We may also disclose PHI where the disclosure is solely for the purpose of designing a study, or where the disclosure concerns decedents, or an institutional review board or privacy board has determined that obtaining authorization is not feasible and protocols are in place to ensure the privacy of your health information. In all other situations, we may only disclose PHI for research purposes with your authorization.
- Marketing: We may contact you with information about treatment alternatives or other health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.
- Fund raising: We may contact you as part of a fund raising effort.
- Directory information: We may disclose limited information regarding your name and location for directory purposes to those persons who ask for you by name or to members of the clergy. You may request that we not include your name in the directory.

For Healthcare Operations

We may use and disclose medical information about you for healthcare operations. As defined under HIPAA (45 CFR § 164.501) and our privacy policies, healthcare operations include any of our following activities:

- (1) Conducting quality assessment and improvement activities; population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, contacting of health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives; and related functions that do not include treatment;
- (2) Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs in which students, trainees, or practitioners in areas of health care learn under supervision to practice or improve their skills as health care providers, training of non-health care professionals, accreditation, certification, licensing, or credentialing activities;

- (3) Conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services, and auditing functions, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance programs;
- (4) Business planning and development, such as conducting cost-management and planning-related analyses related to our management and operations;
- (5) Business management and general administrative activities, including, but not limited to: (i) management activities relating to implementation of and compliance with the requirements of HIPAA; (ii) customer service, (iii) resolution of internal grievances; (iv) the sale, transfer, merger, or consolidation of all or part of our company with another covered entity, or an entity that following such activity will become a covered entity and due diligence related to such activity; and (v) creating de-identified health information or a limited data set, and fundraising for our benefit.

These uses and disclosures are necessary to run our company and make sure that all patients receive quality care. For example, we may use medical information to review treatment and services and to evaluate the performance of staff in caring for you. We may also combine medical information about many patients to decide what additional services to offer, what services are not needed, and whether certain new treatments are effective. We may also disclose information to doctors, nurses, technicians, medical students, and other personnel for review and learning purposes. We may also combine the medical information we have with medical information from other health care providers to compare how we are doing and see where we can make improvements in the care and services we offer. We may remove information that identifies you from this set of medical information so others may use it to study health care and health care delivery without learning who the specific patients are.

Disclosures requiring authorization

All other disclosures of protected health information will only be made pursuant to your written authorization, which you have the right to revoke at any time, except to the extent we have already relied upon the authorization.