

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

## HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

The effective date of this notice is April 14, 2003. The most recent revision date is shown in the footer of this notice.

**Please read this notice carefully. This tells you who can see your protected health information (PHI). It tells you when we have to ask for your OK before we share it. It tells you when we can share it without your OK. It also tells you what rights you have to see and change your information.**

Information about your health and money is private. The law says we must keep this kind of information, called PHI, safe for our members. That means if you're a member right now or if you used to be, your information is safe.

We get information about you from state agencies for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program after you become eligible and sign up for our health plan. We also get it from your doctors, clinics, labs, and hospitals so we can OK and pay for your health care.

Federal law says we must tell you what the law says we have to do to protect PHI that's told to us, in writing or saved on a computer. We also have to tell you how we keep it safe. To protect PHI:

- On paper (called physical), we:
  - Lock our offices and files
  - Destroy paper with health information so others can't get it
- Saved on a computer (called technical), we:
  - Use passwords so only the right people can get in
  - Use special programs to watch our systems
- Used or shared by people who work for us, doctors, or the state, we:
  - Make rules for keeping information safe (called policies and procedures)
  - Teach people who work for us to follow the rules

### **When is it OK for us to use and share your PHI?**

We can share your PHI with your family or a person you choose who helps with or pays for your health care if you tell us it's OK. Sometimes, we can use and share it **without** your OK:

- **For your medical care**
  - To help doctors, hospitals and others get you the care you need
- **For payment, health care operations and treatment**

- To share information with the doctors, clinics and others who bill us for your care
- When we say we'll pay for health care or services before you get them
- To find ways to make our programs better, as well as giving your PHI to health information exchanges for payment, health care operations and treatment. If you don't want this, please visit [www.myamerigroup.com/DC](http://www.myamerigroup.com/DC) for more information.
- **For health care business reasons**
  - To help with audits, fraud and abuse prevention programs, planning, and everyday work
  - To find ways to make our programs better
- **For public health reasons**
  - To help public health officials keep people from getting sick or hurt
- **With others who help with or pay for your care**
  - With your family or a person you choose who helps with or pays for your health care, if you tell us it's OK
  - With someone who helps with or pays for your health care, if you can't speak for yourself and it's best for you

We must get your OK in writing before we use or share your PHI for all but your care, payment, everyday business, research or other things listed below. We have to get your written OK before we share psychotherapy notes from your doctor about you.

You may tell us in writing that you want to take back your written OK. We can't take back what we used or shared when we had your OK. But we will stop using or sharing your PHI in the future.

**Other ways we can — or the law says we have to — use your PHI:**

- To help the police and other people who make sure others follow laws. For example, we may use PHI to report abuse and neglect.
- To help the court when we're asked. For example, we may use PHI to answer legal documents that are filed with the court like complaints or subpoenas.
- To give information to health oversight agencies or others who work for the government with certain jobs. For example, we provide information for audits or exams.
- To help coroners, medical examiners or funeral directors find out your name and cause of death.
- To help when you've asked to give your body parts to science or for research. For example, we may share your information if you have agreed to become an organ donor in the event of your death.
- To keep you or others from getting sick or badly hurt. For example, we may share your PHI to prevent you or others from being harmed in an urgent situation.
- To give information to workers' compensation. For example, we may share your information if you get sick or hurt at work.

**What are your rights?**

- You can ask to look at your PHI and get a copy of it. We don't have your whole medical record, though. If you want a copy of your whole medical record, ask your doctor or health clinic.
- You can ask us to change the medical record we have for you if you think something is wrong or

missing.

- Sometimes, you can ask us not to share your PHI. But we don't have to agree to your request. For example, if the PHI is part of clinical notes and by law cannot be released, your request may be denied.
- You can ask us to send PHI to a different address than the one we have for you or in some other way. We can do this if sending it to the address we have for you may put you in danger.
- You can ask us to tell you all the times over the past six years we've shared your PHI with someone else. This won't list the times we've shared it because of health care, payment, everyday health care business or some other reasons we didn't list here.
- You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you asked for this one by email.
- If you pay the whole bill for a service, you can ask your doctor not to share the information about that service with us.

### **What do we have to do?**

- The law says we must keep your PHI private except as we've said in this notice.
- We must tell you what the law says we have to do about privacy.
- We must do what we say we'll do in this notice.
- We must send your PHI to some other address or in a way other than regular mail if you ask and if you're in danger.
- We must tell you if we have to share your PHI after you've asked us not to.
- If state laws say we have to do more than what we've said here, we'll follow those laws.
- We have to let you know if we think your PHI has been breached.

### **We may contact you**

You agree that we, along with our affiliates and/or vendors, may call or text any phone numbers you give us, including a wireless phone number, using an automatic telephone dialing system and/or a pre-recorded message. Without limit, these calls or texts may be about treatment options, other health-related benefits and services, enrollment, payment, or billing.

### **What if you have questions?**

If you have questions about our privacy rules or want to use your rights, please call Member Services at 1-800-600-4441. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, call **TTY 711**.

### **What if you have a complaint?**

We're here to help. If you feel your PHI hasn't been kept safe, you may call Member Services or contact the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Write to or call the Department of Health and Human Services:**

Office for Civil Rights  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20201  
Phone: 1-800-368-1019  
TDD: 1-800-537-7697

We reserve the right to change this Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) notice and the ways we keep your PHI safe. If that happens, we'll tell you about the changes in a newsletter. We'll also post them on the Web at [www.myamerigroup.com/pages/privacy.aspx](http://www.myamerigroup.com/pages/privacy.aspx).

### **Race, ethnicity and language**

We receive race, ethnicity and language information about you from the state Medicaid agency and the Children's Health Insurance Program. We protect this information as described in this notice.

We use this information to:

- Make sure you get the care you need
- Create programs to improve health outcomes
- Develop and send health education information
- Let doctors know about your language needs
- Provide translator services

We do **not** use this information to:

- Issue health insurance
- Decide how much to charge for services
- Determine benefits
- Disclose to unapproved users

### **Your personal information**

We must follow state laws if they say we need to do more than the HIPAA Privacy Rule. We may ask for, use and share personal information (PI) as we talked about in this notice. Your PI is not public and tells us who you are. It's often taken for insurance reasons.

- We may use your PI to make decisions about your:
  - Health
  - Habits
  - Hobbies
- We may get PI about you from other people or groups like:
  - Doctors
  - Hospitals
  - Other insurance companies
- We may share PI with people or groups outside of our company without your OK in some cases. For example, we may share PI with claims and billing vendors who we hire to help us run our business.
- We'll let you know before we do anything where we have to give you a chance to say no.
- We'll tell you how to let us know if you don't want us to use or share your PI.
- You have the right to see and change your PI.
- We make sure your PI is kept safe.

Do you need help with your health care, talking with us, or reading what we send you? We provide our materials in other languages and formats at no cost to you. Call us toll free at 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711). English

¿Necesita ayuda con el cuidado de la salud, para hablar con nosotros o para leer lo que le enviamos? Le ofrecemos nuestros materiales en otros idiomas y formatos sin costo alguno. Llame a nuestra línea gratuita al 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711). Spanish

በእርስዎ የጤና ክብካቤ ላይ፣ ከእኛ ጋር በመነጋገር ላይ፣ ወይም እኛ የምንልክልዎትን ነገሮች በማንበብ ላይ እገዛ ያስፈልግዎታል? የእኛን የሚነበቡ ነገሮች በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች እና ቅርጾች በእርስዎ ላይ ምንም ወጪ ሳያስከትልብዎት እንሰጥዎታለን። በነጻ የስልክ መሥመር በስልክ ቍጥር 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711) ይደውሉልን። Amharic

건강 관리에 도움이 필요하십니까? 아니면 저희와 연락하시거나, 보내드리는 자료를 읽는 데 도움이 필요하십니까? 자료를 다른 언어 및 형식으로 무료로 제공해드립니다. 저희에게 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711) 번으로 연락해 주십시오. Korean

您在醫療保健方面、與我們交流或閱讀我們寄送的材料時是否需要幫助？我們可為您免費提供其他語言和格式的材料。請撥打我們的免費電話 1-800-600-4441（聽障專線 711）。  
Chinese Traditional

Avez-vous besoin d'aide pour vos soins de santé, pour parler avec nous ou pour lire ce que nous vous avons envoyé ? Nous pouvons vous fournir gratuitement nos documents dans d'autres langues et formats. Appelez notre numéro gratuit 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711). French

Quý vị có cần trợ giúp liên quan tới chăm sóc sức khỏe, nói chuyện với chúng tôi, hoặc đọc nội dung chúng tôi gửi cho quý vị không? Chúng tôi có cung cấp tài liệu bằng các ngôn ngữ và định dạng khác mà không tính phí cho quý vị. Hãy gọi chúng tôi theo số điện thoại miễn cước 1-800-600-4441 (TTY 711). Vietnamese