

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed notice effective for health information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current notice in the facility and on the Web site if applicable at www.sjhm.org. The notice will contain on the first page, in the top right-hand corner, the effective date. Each time you register at the facility for treatment or health care we will offer you a copy of the current notice in effect.

COMPLAINTS

You may file a complaint with us or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services if you believe that we have not complied with our privacy practices. You may file a complaint with us verbally or in writing by contacting the Coordinator of Children's Health by mail at St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or by phone at (717) 397-7625.

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.



HIPAA Privacy Notice

1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150
Lancaster, PA 17602
(717) 397-7625



St. Joseph Health Ministries

St. Joseph Health Ministries NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: July 11, 2005 Revised 7/1/2011

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL/DENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the *Privacy Official* at (717) 397-7625.

Definitions

Notice of Privacy Practices (The Notice) – a written notice in compliance with the requirements of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), made available from St. Joseph Health Ministries to a patient or personal representative at the first delivery of service, or at the patient's next visit following a revision to the Notice, that describes the uses and disclosures of protected health information that may be made by St. Joseph Health Ministries and the patient's rights and St. Joseph Health Ministries legal duties with respect to protected health information.

Protected Health Information (PHI) – individually identifiable health information that is transmitted or maintained in any form or medium, including electronic media. Protected health information does not include employment records held by St. Joseph Health Ministries in its role as an employer.

St. Joseph Health Ministries, an affiliate member of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), and other affiliated members of CHI participate in an Organized Health Care Arrangement (OHCA) in order to share health information to manage joint operational activities. A complete list of CHI affiliated members is available at www.catholichealthinitiatives.org by clicking on "Where We Are". A paper copy is available upon request. The CHI OHCA may use and disclose your health information to provide treatment, payment, or health care operations for the affiliated members such as integrated information system management, financial and billing services, insurance, quality improvement, and risk management activities.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION.

For Treatment. We will use your health information to provide you with health care treatment and to coordinate or manage services with other health care providers, including third parties. We may disclose all or any portion of your health information to your attending physician/dentist, consulting dentists, hygienists, dental students, or other facility or health care personnel who have a legitimate need for such information in order to take care of you. We may disclose your health information to family members or friends, guardians or personal representatives who are involved with your medical/dental care. We may also use and disclose your health information to contact you for appointment reminders, and to provide you with information about possible treatment options or alternatives, and other health-related benefits and services. We also may disclose your health information to people outside the facility who may be involved in your health care after you leave the facility, such as other dentists/physicians involved in your care, pharmacies to fill prescriptions, home health services and other health care-related services.

For Payment. We will use and disclose your health information for activities that are necessary to receive payment for our services, such as determining insurance coverage, billing, payment and collection, claims management, and medical data processing. For example, we may tell your health plan about a treatment you are planning in order to receive approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the proposed treatment. We may disclose your health information to other health care providers so they can receive payment for health care services that they provided to you, such as ambulance services. We may also give information to other third parties or individuals who are responsible for payment for your health care, such as the named insured under the health policy who will receive an explanation of benefits (EOB) for all beneficiaries who are covered under the insured's plan.

For Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your health information for routine facility operations, such as business planning and development, quality review of services provided, internal auditing, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities, including the licensing or credentialing activities of healthcare professionals, medical research and education for staff and students, to assess your satisfaction with our services and to other healthcare entities that have a relationship with you and need the information for operational purposes. We may use and disclose your health information to the external agencies responsible for oversight of healthcare activities such as the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, patient satisfaction survey organizations, external quality assurance and peer review organizations, and credentialing organizations. We may also disclose health information to business associates we have contracted with to perform services for or on our behalf and to others such as medical device manufacturers or pharmaceutical companies in order for those companies to carry out their legal obligations to state and federal agencies.

Fundraising Activities. We may use your health information, or disclose your health information for St. Joseph Health Ministries fundraising efforts. We would only release information such as your name, address and phone number and the dates that you received treatment or services from us. If you do not want us to contact you for fundraising efforts you

must notify the Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 in writing, stating that you do not want to receive the information.

Research. We may use and disclose your health information to researchers either when you authorize the use and disclosure of your health information, or the St. Joseph Health Ministries Institutional Review Board and/or Privacy Board approves an authorization waiver for the use and disclosure of your health information for a research study.

USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT ARE REQUIRED OR PERMITTED BY LAW

Subject to requirements of federal, state and local laws, we are either required or permitted to report your health information for various purposes

Public Health Activities. We may disclose your health information to public health officials for activities related to the prevention or control of communicable disease, bioterrorism, injury or disability; to report births and deaths; to report suspected child, elder, or spouse abuse or neglect; to report reactions to medications or problems with medical products; to report information to the Centers for Disease Control or to authorized national or state cancer registries for their data aggregation.

Disaster Relief Efforts. We may disclose your health information to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort, such as the American Red Cross, so that your family can be notified about your condition and location.

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose your health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Such agencies include federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and state medical or nursing boards. These oversight activities may include audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor activities such as health care treatment and spending, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Judicial or Administrative Proceeding. We may disclose your health information in response to a court or administrative order, a subpoena, discovery request, civil or criminal proceedings, or other lawful process.

Law Enforcement. We may release your health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official or if we have a legal obligation to notify the appropriate law enforcement or other agencies:

- 1 In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar legal process;
- 2 Regarding a victim or death of a victim of a crime in limited circumstances;
- 3 In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, de-

scription or location of the person who committed the crime, including crimes that may occur at our facility, such as theft, diversion or attempts to obtain drugs illegally.

Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.

We may release health information to a coroner or a medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a person who died or determine the cause of death. We may also release health information to help a funeral director to carry out his/her duties.

Workers' Compensation. We may release your health information for workers' compensation benefits or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses if you tell us that workers' compensation is the payer for your visit(s). Your employer or their workers' compensation carrier may request the entire medical record pertinent to your workers' compensation claim. This medical record may include details regarding your health history, current medications you are taking, and treatments.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may disclose your health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another person or the public.

National Security. We may disclose your health information to federal official(s) for national security activities and for the protection of the President and other Heads of State.

Military and Veterans. If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release your health information as required by military command authorities. We may also release health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.

Inmates. If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or in the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release your health information to the institution or law enforcement official. This release would be necessary (1) for the institution to provide you with health care; or (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.

OTHER USES OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION.

Other uses and disclosures of your health information not covered by this notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you provide us with authorization to use or disclose your health information, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time. When we receive your written revocation we will no longer use or disclose your health information for the purpose of that authorization. However, we are unable to retrieve any disclosures already made based on your prior authorization.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION.

You have the following rights regarding your health information:

Right to Inspect and Copy. You have the right to inspect your health information and receive a copy of medical, billing, or other records that may be used to make decisions about your care. The right to inspect and receive a copy may not apply to psychotherapy notes that are maintained separately from the health record.

Your request to inspect and receive a copy of your health information must be submitted in writing. We may charge a fee for document requests to cover the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies. In limited circumstances we may deny your request to inspect or receive a copy of your health information. If you are denied access to your health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. A licensed health care professional chosen by St. Joseph Health Ministries will review your request and the denial. The person who conducts the review will not be the same person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to Amend. You have the right to request an amendment to your health information that you believe is incorrect or incomplete.

Submit your request in writing, using a Request for Amendment to PHI form, and including your reason for the amendment, to Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or by phone at (717) 397-7625.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. We may also deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- 1 Was not created by St. Joseph Health Ministries; unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
- 2 Is not part of the medical information kept by or for St. Joseph Health Ministries;
- 3 Is not part of the information that you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or;
- 4 Is accurate and complete.

To obtain a paper copy of this request, contact the Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or by phone at (717) 397-7625.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. We are required to maintain a list of disclosures of your health information. However, we are not required to maintain a list of disclosure that we made by acting upon your written authorizations. You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures that were not subject to your written authorization.

Submit your request in writing to the Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or by

phone at (717) 397-7625. Your request must state a time period, not longer than six years, and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The information will be available in paper format. The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request before any costs are incurred.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on how much of your health information we use or disclose for treatment, payment or health care operations. You also have the right to request a restriction on the disclosure of your health information to someone who is involved in your care or payment for your care, such as a family member or friend.

We are not required to agree to your request. However, if we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

Submit your request in writing to the Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602, or to request and submit a Request for Restrictions to Protected Health Information form you may contact the Coordinator of Children's Health at (717) 397-7625. You must include: (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you about health care matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you at an alternative location from your home address, such as work, or only contact you by mail instead of by phone.

You must make your request in writing to the Coordinator of Children's Health, St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or to request and submit a "Confidential Communications Opt Out" form you may contact the Coordinator of Children's Health at (717) 397-7625. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We do not require a reason for the request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. If you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. You may obtain a copy of this notice at our Web site, www.sjhm.org.

To obtain a paper copy of this notice, contact the Coordinator of Children's Health by mail at St. Joseph Health Ministries, 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, Lancaster, PA 17602 or by phone at (717) 397-7625.