

Dayton Fire Department Notice of Privacy Practices

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.

Dayton Fire Department is required by law to maintain the privacy of certain health care information, known as Protected Health Information, or PHI, and to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI. Dayton Fire Department is also required to abide by the terms of the version of this Notice currently in effect.

Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI

Dayton Fire Department may use or disclose your PHI *without* your authorization, or *without* providing you with an opportunity to object, for the following purposes:

Treatment. This includes such things as obtaining verbal and written information about your medical condition and treatment from you as well as from others, such as doctors and nurses who give orders to allow us to provide treatment to you. We may give your PHI to other health care providers involved in your treatment, and may transfer you PHI via radio or telephone to the hospital or dispatch center.

Payment. This includes any activities we must undertake in order to get reimbursed for the services that we provide to you, including such things as submitting bills to insurance companies, performing medical necessity determinations and collecting outstanding accounts.

Health Care Operations. This includes quality assurance activities, licensing, and training programs to ensure that our personnel meet our standards of care and follow established policies and procedures, as well as certain other management functions.

Other Uses and Disclosure of Your PHI We Can Make Without Authorization.

Dayton Fire Department is also permitted to use or disclose your PHI *without* your written authorization in situations including:

- For the treatment, payment or health care operations activities of another health care provider who treats you;
- For health care and legal compliance activities;
- To a family member, other relative, or close personal friend or other individual involved in your care if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family, relatives, or friends if we infer from the circumstances that you would not object, and in certain other circumstances where we are unable to obtain your agreement and believe the disclosure is in your best interest;
- To a public health authority in certain situations as required by law, as part of a public health investigation, to report child or adult abuse, neglect or domestic violence, to report adverse events such as product defects, or to notify a person about exposure to a possible communicable disease;
- For health oversight activities including audits or government investigations, inspections, disciplinary proceedings, and other administrative or judicial actions undertaken by the government (or their contractors) by law to oversee the health care system;
- For judicial and administrative proceedings, as required by a court or administrative order, or in some cases in response to a subpoena or other legal process;
- For law enforcement activities in limited situations, such as when there is a warrant for the request, or when the information is needed to locate a suspect or stop a crime;
- For military, national defense and security and other special government functions;
- To avert a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public at large;

- For workers' compensation purposes, and in compliance with workers' compensation laws;
- To coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors for identifying a deceased person, determining cause of death, or carrying on their duties as authorized by law;
- If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation, or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ donation and transplantation; and
- For research projects, but this will be subject to strict oversight and approvals and health information will be released only when there is a minimal risk to your privacy and adequate safeguards are in place in accordance with the law.
- Dayton Fire Department may also use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify who you are.

Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI That Require Your Written Consent

Any other use or disclosure of PHI, other than those listed above, will only be made with your written authorization (the authorization must specifically identify the information we seek to use or disclose, as well as when and how we seek to use or disclose it). Specifically, we must obtain your written authorization before using or disclosing your: (a) psychotherapy notes, other than for the purpose of carrying out our own treatment, payment or health care operations purposes, (b) PHI for marketing when we receive payment to make a marketing communication; or (c) PHI when engaging in a sale of your PHI. **You may revoke your authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that we have already used or disclosed medical information in reliance on that authorization.**

Your Rights Regarding Your PHI

As a patient, you have a number of rights with respect to your PHI, including:

Right to access, copy or inspect your PHI. You have the right to inspect and copy most of the medical information that Dayton Fire Department collects and maintains about you. If the PHI is maintained in electronic format, you may request an electronic form or format if it is readily producible. In addition, if you request that we transmit a copy of your PHI directly to another person, we will do so provided your request is in writing, signed by you (or your representative), and you clearly identify the designated person and where to send the copy of your PHI. In limited circumstances, we may deny you access to your medical information, and you may appeal certain types of denials. We have available forms to request access to your PHI, and we will provide a written response if we deny you access and let you know your appeal rights. If you wish to inspect and copy your medical information, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer. We will normally provide you with access to this information within 30 days of your written request.

Right to request an amendment of your PHI. You have the right to ask Dayton Fire Department to amend protected health information that we maintain about you. Requests for amendments to your PHI should be made in writing and you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer if you wish to make a request for amendment and fill out an amendment request form.

When required by law to do so, we will amend your information within 60 days of your request and will notify you when we have amended the information. We are permitted by law to deny your request to amend your medical information in certain circumstances, such as when we believe that the information you have asked us to amend is correct.

Right to request an accounting of uses and disclosures of your PHI. You may request an accounting from us of disclosures of your medical information. If you wish to request an accounting of disclosures of your PHI that are subject to the accounting requirement, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in writing.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your PHI made within six (6) years immediately preceding your request. But, we are not required to provide you with an accounting of disclosures of your PHI: (a) for purposes of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations; (b) for disclosures that you expressly

authorized; (c) disclosures made to you, your family or friends, or (d) for disclosures made for law enforcement or certain other governmental purposes.

Right to request restrictions on uses and disclosures of your PHI. You have the right to request that we restrict how we use and disclose your medical information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations purposes, or to restrict the information that is provided to family, friends and other individuals involved in your healthcare. However, we are only required to abide by a requested restriction under limited circumstances, and it is generally our policy that we will not agree to any restrictions unless required by law to do so. If you wish to request a restriction on the use or disclosure of your PHI, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in writing.

Dayton Fire Department is required to abide by a requested restriction when you ask that we not release PHI to your health plan (insurer) about a service for which you (or someone on your behalf) have paid Dayton Fire Department in full. We are also required to abide by any restrictions that we agree to. Notwithstanding, if you request a restriction that we agree to, and the information you asked us to restrict is needed to provide you with emergency treatment, then we may disclose the PHI to a healthcare provider to provide you with emergency treatment.

Right to request confidential communications. You have the right to request that we send your PHI to an alternate location (*e.g.*, somewhere other than your home address) or in a specific manner (*e.g.*, by email rather than regular mail). However, we will only comply with reasonable requests when required by law to do so. If you wish to request that we communicate PHI to a specific location or in a specific format, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in writing.

Internet, Email and the Right to Obtain Copy of Paper Notice

If we maintain a web site, we will prominently post a copy of this Notice on our web site and make the Notice available electronically through the web site. If you allow us, we will forward you this Notice by electronic mail instead of on paper and you may always request a paper copy of the Notice.

Revisions to the Notice

Dayton Fire Department reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time, and the changes will be effective immediately and will apply to all PHI that we maintain. Any material changes to the Notice will be promptly posted in our facilities and on our web site, if we maintain one. You can get a copy of the latest version of this Notice by contacting our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

Your Legal Rights and Complaints

You also have the right to complain to the Dayton Fire Department or to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, if you believe that your privacy rights have been violated. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint with us or to the government. Should you have any questions, comments or complaints, you may direct all inquiries to our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

Notice of Breach of Unsecured Protected Health Information

Dayton Fire Department will promptly notify each affected individual as required for breaches of unsecured PHI.

Dayton Fire Department HIPAA Compliance Officer Contact Information:

**HIPAA Compliance Officer
Dayton Fire Department
300 N Main St
Dayton, Ohio 45402
(937) 333-4500**

Effective Date of the Notice: September 21, 2015