

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

You have the right to:

- Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record
- Correct your paper or electronic medical record
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

› See page 2 for more information on these rights and how to exercise them

Your Choices

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Tell family and friends about your condition
- Provide disaster relief
- Provide mental health care
- Market our services
- Raise funds

› See page 3 for more information on these choices and how to exercise them

Our Uses and Disclosures

We may use and share your information as we:

- Treat you
- Run our organization
- Bill for your services
- Help with public health and safety issues
- Do research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests
- Work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address worker's compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

› See pages 3 and 4 for more information on these uses and disclosures

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 an electronic or paper copy of your medical record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this. We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee. *Note: <i>We are under contract with certain departments of the State of New Jersey and are subject to various regulatory and administrative requirements that may restrict access to records.</i>
Ask us to correct your medical record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this. We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.
Request confidential communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 say “yes” to all reasonable requests.
Ask us to limit what we use or share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.
Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.
Get a copy of this privacy notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1. You can 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/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/. 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:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in 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.
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes and Substance Use Disorder records.

In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

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.

Treat You

- We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.

Example: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.

Run our organization

- We can use and share your health information to run our organization, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.

Bill for your services

- We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.

continued on next page

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: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

Help with public health and safety issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can share health information about you for certain situations such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preventing disease. ○ Helping with product recalls. ○ Reporting adverse reactions to medications. ○ Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. ○ Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety.
Comply with the law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we are complying with federal privacy law.
Respond to organ and tissue donor requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
Work with a medical examiner or funeral director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can use or share health information about you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For workers’ compensation claims. ○ For law enforcement purposes or with 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

Substance Use Disorder (“SUD”) Treatment Information. Your authorization is required for us to disclose SUD treatment information. There are certain purposes for which we may disclose your SUD treatment information without your authorization or consent: diagnosis and treatment; internal healthcare operations; crimes on program premises or against program personnel; when required by law to report, such as child abuse; when you have a medical emergency and the disclosure is necessary to treat the emergency medical condition; pursuant to a court order; and audit and evaluation activities. **(42 CFR Part 2).**

Treatment with Licensed Mental Health Care Providers. If you are receiving care from a licensed mental health care provider, to protect your confidentiality and the confidentiality of your mental health records, in most circumstances we will not disclose information about you and your treatment here without first obtaining your written authorization. It is important for you to know that in limited situations we must release your information without your prior consent. These situations are as follows: to secure emergency treatment for you; to prevent serious and imminent threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of another person or to the public; as required by Federal or New Jersey Law, such as responding to requests from Medicare, Medicaid, the Attorney General’s office, and the Medical Examiner’s office, reporting communicable diseases, crimes and child abuse and neglect; clinical records and audit teams, monitoring and site review staff designated by the State of New Jersey and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, as directed by a court order signed by a judge, to a licensed mental health provider or medical health care provider who has a contract with the Division of Mental Health Services or the Department of Human Services, or to the consumer’s personal physician if it appears that the information is to be used for the benefit of the consumer.

Our Responsibilities

- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- 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, in our office, and on our web site.

Effective May, 2021

This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the following organizations:

All Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen Programs providing health care, substance use disorder treatment or mental health care services.

Privacy Officer
email: privacyofficer@ccdom.org
Telephone: 732-324-8200, ext. 3810

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF METUCHEN
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

I have received, read and understand Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen Notice of Privacy Practices. The Notice of Privacy Practices provides a summary of my privacy rights and how Catholic Charities may use and disclosure of my protected health information. I understand that Catholic Charities has the right to change its Notice of Privacy Practices from time to time and that I may contact Catholic Charities at any time to obtain a current copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices.

Patient Name

Date

Signature of Patient or Personal Representative

If signed by a Personal Representative, please indicate relationship to patient (i.e. parent, legal guardian):

Relationship to Patient

OFFICE USE ONLY

I attempted to obtain the patient's signature on this Acknowledgement, but was unable to do so for the reason set forth below.

Date:

Staff Initials:

Reason:

[PLACE THIS PAGE IN CLIENT'S RECORD AFTER EXECUTION OF THIS NOTICE BY THE CLIENT OR AFTER YOU HAVE DOCUMENTED THE CLIENT'S REFUSAL TO SIGN.]