



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

Who will comply with this notice?

Masonicare and its affiliated entities provide health care services to our patients, residents, and clients in partnership with other professionals and healthcare organizations. The privacy practices described in this Notice will be followed by:

- Any healthcare professional who treats you at any of our facilities or locations.
- All departments and units of Masonicare Health Center (including its outpatient services), Masonicare at Newtown, all branches of Masonicare Home Health and Hospice and Masonicare Partners Home Health and Hospice and the physician practices known as Masonicare Primary Care Physicians and Masonicare Behavioral Health.
- All employees, medical staff, students, on-site healthcare consultants or volunteers of the facilities listed above.

Masonicare at Ashlar Village, Pond Ridge, Lockwood Lodge, Masonicare At Home, Wells Residence, Wright Residence, Johnson Residence and the Hawkins Residence are not required to comply with HIPAA. As a resident of one of these facilities, however, you may utilize other services in the Masonicare continuum that do follow HIPAA requirements. For your convenience, we thought that you might wish to review the Notice of Privacy Practices that applies to Masonicare entities that deliver direct healthcare services.

While each of these entities operate independently, they may share your health information for coordination of care, treatment, payment and healthcare operations purposes.

Our pledge to you:

We understand that medical information about you is personal and we are committed to protecting the privacy and integrity of your medical information. We create a record of the care and services you receive to provide quality care and to comply with legal requirements. This Notice applies to all your health care records (in any form) whether created by the facilities and providers described above or received from another healthcare provider. We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information; to provide you this detailed Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices relating to your health information; and to abide by the terms of the Notice that are currently in effect.

How we may use and disclose medical information about you:

The following lists various ways in which we may use and disclose your protected health information (“medical information”) for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations.

- For Treatment. We may use and disclose your medical information in providing you with treatment and services and coordinating your care and may disclose your medical information to other providers involved in your care. Your medical information may be used by doctors involved in your care and by nurses and home health aides as well as by physical therapists, pharmacists, suppliers of medical equipment or other persons involved in your care. For example, we may contact your physician to discuss your plan of care.

- For Payment. We may use and disclose your medical information for billing and payment purposes. We may disclose your medical information to insurance or managed care company, Medicare, Medicaid or another third party payor. For example, we may contact Medicare or your health plan to confirm your coverage or to request prior approval for services that will be provided to you.
- For Health Care Operations. We may use and disclose your medical information as necessary for health care operations, such as management, personnel evaluation, education and training and to monitor our quality of care. We may disclose your medical information to another entity with which you have or had a relationship if that entity requests your information for certain of its health care operations or health care fraud and abuse detection or compliance activities. For example, medical information of many patients may be combined and analyzed for purposes such as evaluating and improving quality of care and planning for services.

Specific uses and disclosures of your health information:

The following lists various ways in which we may use or disclose your medical information.

- Facility Directory. Unless you object we will include certain limited information about you in our facility directory. This information may include your name, your location in the facility, your general condition and your religious affiliation. Our directory does not include specific medical information about you. We may release information in our directory, except for your religious affiliation, to people who ask for you by name. We may provide the directory information, including your religious affiliation, to any member of the clergy.
- Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. Unless you object, we may disclose medical information about you to a family member, close personal friend or other person you identify, including clergy, who is involved in your care.
- Emergencies. We may use and disclose your medical information as necessary in emergency treatment situations.
- As Required By Law. We may use and disclose your medical information when required by law to do so.
- Public Health Activities. We may disclose your medical information for public health activities. These activities may include, for example, reporting to a public health authority for preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability; reporting elder abuse or neglect; or reporting deaths.
- Reporting Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence. If we believe that you have been a victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, we may use and disclose your medical information to notify a government authority, if authorized by law or if you agree to the report.
- Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose your medical information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law, such as audits, investigations, inspections and licensure actions or for activities involving government oversight of the health care system.
- To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. When necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health or safety or the health or safety of the public or another person, we may use and disclose your medical information, limiting disclosures to someone able to help lessen or prevent the threatened harm.
- Judicial and Administrative Proceedings. We may disclose your medical information in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose your medical information in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process, provided certain conditions are met. These conditions including making efforts to contact you about the request or to obtain an order or agreement protecting the medical information.
- Law Enforcement. We may disclose your medical information for certain law enforcement purposes, including, for example, to comply with reporting requirements; to comply with a court order, warrant, or similar legal process; or to respond to certain requests for information concerning crimes.
- Research. We may use and disclose your medical information for research purposes if the privacy aspects of the research have been reviewed and approved, if the researcher is collecting information in preparing a research proposal, if the research occurs after your death, or if you authorize the use or disclosure.

- Coroners, Medical Examiners, Funeral Directors, Organ Procurement Organizations. We may release your medical information to a coroner, medical examiner, funeral director or, if you are an organ donor, to an organization involved in the donation of organs and tissue.
- Disaster Relief. We may disclose your medical information to a disaster relief organization.
- Military, Veterans and other Specific Government Functions. If you are a member of the armed forces, we may use and disclose your medical information as required by military command authorities. We may disclose your medical information for national security purposes or as needed to protect the President of the United States or certain other officials or to conduct certain special investigations.
- Workers' Compensation. We may use and disclose your medical information to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or similar programs.
- Fundraising Activities. We may use certain limited contact information for fundraising purposes and may provide contact information to a foundation affiliated with our organization, provided that any fundraising communications explain clearly and conspicuously your right to opt out of future fundraising communications. We are required to honor your request to opt out.
- Appointment Reminders. We may use and disclose your medical information to remind you about appointments.
- Treatment Alternatives and Health-Related Benefits and Services. Subject to certain limitations, we may use and disclose your medical information to inform you about treatment alternatives and health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Uses And Disclosures With Your Authorization:

- Except as described in this Notice, we will use and disclose your medical information only with your written Authorization. You may revoke an Authorization in writing at any time. If you revoke an Authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your medical information for the purposes covered by that Authorization, except where we have already relied on the Authorization.

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information:

Listed below are your rights regarding your medical information. These rights may be exercised by submitting a request to the Facility. Each of these rights is subject to certain requirements, limitations and exceptions. At your request, the Facility will supply you with the appropriate form to complete. You have the right to:

- Request Restrictions. You have the right to request restrictions on our use and disclosure of your medical information for treatment, payment, or health care operations or to persons involved in your care. We will consider your request and try to accommodate it when possible, but we are not required to agree to your restriction except under limited circumstances. For Nursing Home Residents, if we do agree to your requested restrictions, we will comply with your request except as needed to provide you with emergency treatment or in accordance with applicable law.
- Access to Personal Health Information. For most care settings, we have 30 days after a request to allow you access to, or copies of, your medical or billing records or other information that may be used to make decisions about your care. For Nursing Home Residents, we will allow you to see your current records within 24 hours of your request (excluding weekends and holidays), and if you further request, we will make copies for you in two days or less. To the extent we maintain an electronic health record with respect to your medical information, you also have the right to receive an electronic copy of such information, and to direct us to transmit an electronic copy directly to a third-party designated by you. We may charge a fee, consistent with applicable law, for our labor costs in responding to your request.

- Request Amendment. You have the right to request amendment of your medical information for as long as the information is kept by or for the Facility. Your request must be made in writing and must state the reason for the requested amendment. We may deny your request for amendment if the medical information (a) was not created by the Facility, unless the originator of the medical information is no longer available to act on your request; (b) is not part of the health information maintained by or for the Facility; (c) is not part of the medical information to which you have a right of access; or (d) is already accurate and complete, as determined by the Facility.
If we deny your request for amendment, we will give you a written denial including the reasons for the denial and an explanation of your right to submit a written statement disagreeing with the denial.
- Request an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request an “accounting” of certain disclosures of your medical information. This is a listing of disclosures made by the Facility or by others on our behalf, but this does not include disclosures for treatment, payment and health care operations and certain other exceptions. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must submit a request in writing, stating a time period beginning after April 13, 2003 that is within six years from the date of your request. The first accounting provided within a 12-month period will be free; for further requests, we may charge you our costs.
- Request a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to obtain a paper copy of this Notice, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. You may request a copy of this Notice at any time. In addition, you may obtain a copy of this Notice at our website www.masonicare.org.
- Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you concerning your health matters in a certain manner. We will accommodate your reasonable requests.

Special Rules Regarding Disclosure Of Psychiatric, Substance Abuse And HIV-Related Information:

- Under Connecticut or federal law, additional restrictions may apply to disclosures of health information that relates to care for psychiatric conditions, substance abuse or HIV-related testing and treatment. This information may not be disclosed without your specific written permission, except as may be specifically required or permitted by Connecticut or federal law. The following are examples of disclosures that may be made without your specific written permission:
- Psychiatric information. The Facility may disclose psychiatric information to a mental health program if needed for your diagnosis or treatment. The Facility may also disclose very limited psychiatric information for payment purposes.
- HIV-related information. The Facility may disclose HIV-related information for purposes of treatment or payment.
- Substance abuse treatment. The Facility may disclose information obtained from a substance abuse program in an emergency.

For Further Information Or To File A Complaint:

- If you have any questions about this Notice or would like further information concerning your privacy rights, please contact our Privacy Officer whose contact information is provided below.
- If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint in writing with the Facility or with the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.
- To file a complaint with the Facility, contact the Privacy Officer whose contact information is listed below. To file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, send your written complaint to the OCR Regional Manager by mail to Office for Civil Rights--Region I, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, J.F. Kennedy Federal Building - Room 1875, Boston, MA 02203, by fax to (617) 565-3809 or by email to OCRComplaint@hhs.gov.

Changes To This Notice:

- We reserve the right to change this Notice and to make the revised or new Notice provisions effective for all medical information already received and maintained by us as well as for all medical information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice in the Facility. We will provide a copy of the revised Notice upon request.

Contact Information

PRIVACY OFFICER

22 Masonic Avenue

Wallingford, CT 06492

(203) 679-6511

mcprivacyandsecurity@masonicare.org

Effective Date: February 2010