

Your Health Information: Your Rights & Our Responsibilities

Notice of Privacy Practices

This handout explains how your medical information may be used or shared and how you can access it. Please read it carefully.

Your Rights

You have the right to:

Get a paper or electronic copy of your medical record

Ask us to fix information you think is wrong

Request private communications (like calling a different phone number or using a different address)

Ask us not to share certain information

See a list of who we've shared your info with

Get a copy of this notice at any time

Pick someone to act on your behalf (such as a legal guardian)

File a complaint if you believe your privacy has been violated

Your Choices

In certain situations, you can choose how we share your information.

For example, you can tell us to:

Share information with your family or close friends

Share info in an emergency or disaster situation

Include your name in a hospital directory

Dutchess County Department of Health

We will follow your wishes whenever we can. If you're unable to tell us your preference (for example, in an emergency), we may still share information to help you or to protect others.

We will not share your information for these reasons unless you give us written permission:

Marketing

Selling your information

Sharing most mental health notes

Fundraising: We may contact you, but you can ask us not to

How We Use & Share Your Information

We may use or share your health information in the following ways:

To treat you – Sharing with doctors, nurses, or specialists involved in your care

To run our organization – Improving services or contacting you as needed

To bill for services – Sending information to your health plan for payment

Other Ways We May Share Your Information

We may also share your health info to:

Prevent disease or help with public health and safety

Report side effects, recalls, abuse, or neglect

Support health research

Follow state and federal law

Respond to organ donation or death-related requests

Help with workers' comp, law enforcement, or government functions

Respond to court orders or legal actions

We only share what is allowed or required by law

Dutchess County Department of Health

Our Responsibilities

We are required to:

Keep your health information safe and private

Tell you quickly if a data breach occurs

Follow the terms of this notice

Only share your information when allowed—and only with your permission when required

Let you change your mind about permissions at any time (in writing)

Need to File a Complaint?

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you can:

Contact us by calling 1- 845-486-3565

File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:

Call: 1-877-696-6775

We will not retaliate or punish you for making a complaint

Changes to This Notice

We may update this notice. The newest version will always be available in our office and on our website.