

Compass Rose Health Plan 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 CAREFULLY.

Introduction

Compass Rose Benefits Group (referred to as "CRBG," "we," or "us" in this document) recognizes the importance of protecting the privacy and security of the confidential personal information we maintain about you and your family in our files. It is our commitment to you that your personal information will remain confidential as outlined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

We will notify you in accordance with federal law if there is a breach of your unsecured protected health information.

Contact

CRBG Privacy Official
Compass Rose Benefits Group
11490 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 220
Reston, VA 20191

Toll-Free PH: (866) 368-7227
PH: **(571) 449-2366**
FAX: **(888) 971-4313**
Email: **privacyofficer@compassrosebenefits.com**

www.compassrosebenefits.com

Definitions

Protected Health Information (PHI): Individually identifiable health information (communicated electronically, on paper, or orally) that is created or received by covered health care entities that transmit or maintain information in any form.

Reproductive health care means health care "that affects the health of an individual in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes."

Public health applies only as it is used in the terms "public health surveillance," "public health investigation," and "public health intervention." In those contexts, it means "population-level activities to prevent disease in and promote the health of populations. Such activities include identifying, monitoring, preventing, or mitigating ongoing or prospective threats to the health or safety of a population, which may involve the collection of PHI." The definition explicitly excludes actions taken:

1. To conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation into any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating health care.
2. To impose criminal, civil, or administrative liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating health care.
3. To identify any person for any of the activities described at paragraphs (1) or (2) above.

Rule: When used within the contents of this notice, Rule pertains to the Final Rule for Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). We are required by the Rule to maintain the privacy of PHI and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices. The Rule requires that we abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect.

We reserve the right to change our privacy policy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, as long as the law permits the changes. We reserve the right to make changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice are effective for all PHI that we maintain, including PHI that we created or received before the changes were made. If we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice, post the new notice on our website and send the new notice (or an explanation about how to obtain a new notice) in our open enrollment mailing.

You may request a copy of this notice at any time. Please send your written request to our **Contact** or print a copy from our website: **www.compassrosebenefits.com**.

Our Legal Duty

Uses and Disclosures: How We Use and Disclose Your Protected Health Information (PHI)

The Rule allows us to use and disclose you and your covered dependents' PHI for treatment, payment, health care operations purposes and for certain other reasons. Below are examples of the major types of uses and disclosures we can make. These examples do not cover all possibilities. In all of these examples, we refer to your own PHI and your covered dependents' PHI as "your PHI."

Treatment: Although we do not provide health care, we may disclose your PHI to a health care provider if he or she tells us that this information is required for your medical care.

Payment: We use your PHI to determine your eligibility, make hospital care pre-authorization decisions and process your medical, dental, and pharmacy claims. We will continue to follow our practice of sending Explanation of Benefit (EOB) statements and other payment-related correspondence to the enrollee — for example, the CRBG member — even if the EOB concerns a dependent. We may request additional information from your doctor or hospital to support the medical necessity of the treatment that you or your dependent is receiving. This information may be in the form of all or part of your medical records pertaining to your medical claim or a letter from your provider outlining your treatment plan. We may disclose your PHI to other health plans for coordination of benefit purposes. We may disclose your PHI for our subrogation purposes. We may disclose your PHI to health care providers for their payment purposes. We may disclose your PHI to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) if you dispute a claim.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your PHI for our health care operations purposes, including:

- Quality assessment and improvement activities;
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, and conducting training programs;

- Medical review, legal services and auditing, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance, including disclosures to the OPM Inspector General;
- Business planning and development; and
- Business management and general administrative activities, including management activities relating to privacy, customer service, resolution of internal grievances, and creating de-identified medical information or a limited data set.

We generally limit uses and disclosures for payment and health care operations purposes to the minimum necessary to achieve our purpose.

Parties with Whom We May Share Information About You

We share your PHI with our third-party business associates, such as our claims administrator and our prescription drug benefit manager, in order to provide your coverage or services related to your coverage.

We will have a written contract with each business associate containing provisions to protect your PHI.

We share enrollment information with CRBG's general office and with Federal government agencies. We are entitled to use this information for our own membership purposes.

We share summary health information with OPM. Summary health information is aggregated claims information used to evaluate a plan's finances and related matters.

When We May Share Your Information Without Your Authorization or Opportunity to Object

We may disclose your PHI to a family member, friend or another person to the extent necessary to help with your health care or with payment for your health care. We may use or disclose your name, location and general condition or death to notify or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating) a person involved in your care. We may disclose necessary information to an authorized public or private entity (such as disaster relief agencies) that is coordinating such notification activities.

If You Are Present and Able to Agree or Object to the Disclosure of Your PHI

Before we disclose your PHI to a person involved in your health care or payment for your health care, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures if you are present. For example, if you are present with a representative who calls us on your behalf, we will ask to speak with you and obtain your permission before speaking with the representative about your PHI.

If You Are Not Present or Able to Agree or Object to the Disclosure of Your PHI

We may disclose only what is necessary to the person who is involved in your health care (such as a member of your family). We will limit these disclosures to claim status information unless you have or designate a personal representative following state law or submit a request to us utilizing the Authorization for Release of Information form. You may request the form from our **Contact** or print a copy from our website: **www.compassrosebenefits.com**.

If You are Deceased

The HIPAA Privacy Rule protects the PHI of a decedent for 50 years following the date of death to the same extent the Rule protects the health information of living individuals but does include a number of special disclosure provisions relevant to deceased individuals. It allows that we may disclose your information (1) to alert law enforcement to the death of the individual, when there is a suspicion that death resulted from criminal conduct; (2) to coroners or medical examiners and funeral directors; (3) for research that is solely on the PHI of decedents; and (4) to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking or transplantation of cadaveric organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating organ, eye or tissue donation and transplantation. See also **Reproductive Health Care Attestation** section on page 5.

In addition, we may disclose your PHI to a family member or other persons who were involved in your care or payment for your health care prior to your death, unless doing so is inconsistent with any prior expressed preference made known to Compass Rose.

Other Instances When We May Share Your Information Without Authorization or Opportunity to Object When Required by Law: We may disclose your PHI as required by law, but this information will be limited to only the relevant requirements of the law.

Victims of Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence: We may disclose your PHI as required by law, limited to the relevant requirements of the law and, as outlined in the Rule, to the appropriate government authority.

Public Health: We may disclose your PHI to a public health authority for the purposes described on page 1.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose your PHI to the FDA to report adverse events, such as a product defect or recall.

Health Oversight: We may disclose your PHI to a health oversight agency, such as government agencies that oversee the health care system and government benefit programs. For example, we may be required to share your information with OPM for its Federal Employees Health Benefits ("FEHB") Program systems of records.

Legal Proceedings: We may disclose your PHI if you are involved in a lawsuit or dispute. We may disclose your PHI in response to a subpoena if it is accompanied by a court order; or if efforts have been made to tell you about the request.

Law Enforcement: We may also disclose your PHI, so long as applicable legal requirements are met, for law enforcement purposes.

These law enforcement purposes include:

1. Legal processes and as otherwise required by law;
2. Limited information requests for identification and location purposes;
3. Requests pertaining to victims of a crime;
4. Suspicion that death has occurred as a result of criminal conduct; and
5. In the event that a crime occurs on our premises.

Reproductive Health Care Attestation: We must obtain a valid attestation and assess the totality of the circumstances surrounding the attestation and the request before disclosing PHI “potentially related to reproductive health care” when the disclosure is part of health oversight activities, in judicial/administrative proceedings, for law enforcement purposes, or to coroners and medical examiners, so long as it is not for one of the prohibited purposes discussed under **Reproductive Health Care** section below. For example, if you are a plaintiff in a medical malpractice action involving your reproductive health care, we would obtain and assess a valid attestation from any party who requests your PHI in the lawsuit.

Research: We may disclose your PHI to researchers as long as the researchers have established protocols to ensure your privacy.

Military Activity and National Security: We may disclose your PHI if you are a member of the Armed Forces in order to determine your Department of Veterans Affairs benefit eligibility or for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities or in the interest of national security or Intelligence.

Workers’ Compensation: We may disclose your PHI to comply with Workers’ Compensation Laws.

HHS Secretary: We must disclose your PHI to the HHS Secretary to investigate or determine our compliance with the Rule.

Other Uses: Other uses and disclosures that have not been described in this notice will only be made with your written authorization. We will not use or disclose your PHI for marketing purposes or disclose your PHI in a manner that constitutes a sale of PHI without your written authorization. We have no plans to seek your written authorization for these purposes.

Authorization for Disclosure: You may authorize us to use or disclose your PHI for your own reasons. You will need to give us a completed Authorization for Release of Information form. If you give us a completed form, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. To request an Authorization for Release of Information form, write to our **Contact**, or print a copy from our website: **www.compassrosebenefits.com**.

Please understand information that you authorize us to disclose to third parties may no longer be protected by HIPAA and could be redisclosed without further authorization from you.

Reproductive Health Care: Except when you give us authorization, we are prohibited from using or disclosing information about lawful reproductive health care for any of the following activities:

1. To conduct a criminal, civil, or administrative investigation into any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care.
2. To impose criminal, civil, or administrative liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care.
3. To identify any person for any purpose described in (1) and (2) above.

For example, we would not disclose your reproductive health information in response to a request from another family member.

Individual Rights

These are your rights concerning your PHI and a brief description of how you may exercise these rights. The individual who is the subject of the PHI has the right to use these rights unless he or she has a personal representative. In that case, the personal representative can use the rights.

A personal representative for an adult or emancipated minor must be designated in accordance with state law (e.g., a power of attorney). The personal representative for an unemancipated minor is a parent, guardian or another person with authority to make health care decisions for the child. Parents and legal guardians generally are considered the personal representative of their unemancipated minor children except in certain circumstances described in the Rule that we must follow. Please inform us if you have an agreement with your child to respect his or her health care privacy. Except in certain states, a person is an adult at age 18 and entitled to their own privacy rights, even if they remain covered as a dependent child. We reserve the right to refuse to accept personal representative designations in certain circumstances described in the Rule. In this section, we use the word “you” to refer to the individual who is the subject of the PHI or his or her personal representative.

Explanation of Your Individual Rights

The Rule provides certain rights to you as an individual as it relates to your PHI. Here is a brief description of these rights.

Access: An individual has the right to request to inspect and obtain a copy of their PHI in a designated record set, with limited exceptions. All requests must be made in writing to our **Contact**.

The requested information will be provided in the form or format that is readily producible and agreed to by us and the individual usually within 30 days of your request. A summary of the requested information may be supplied, provided the individual agrees in advance to such a summary or explanation. If the individual requests a copy or agrees to a summary or explanation of such information, then we may impose a reasonable cost-based fee for copying, including the cost of supplies and labor for copying, postage and preparing a summary or explanation.

If we deny the request for access to the PHI, then we will provide the individual with a written statement explaining the basis for the denial, a statement of the individual’s review rights (if applicable as some PHI has unreviewable grounds for denial as specified by the Rule) and a description of how the individual may file a complaint with us or the HHS Secretary.

Accounting of Disclosures: An individual has the right to request an accounting of disclosures of PHI for purposes other than those identified below. We will provide the date of the disclosure, the name of the person or entity to which the information was disclosed, a description of the PHI disclosed, the reason for the disclosure and certain other information.

The following are not included as part of an accounting of disclosures:

1. Disclosures to an individual or an individual’s personal representative;
2. Disclosures that the individual or his or her representative authorized;

3. Disclosures that were made to a person involved in your care;
4. Disclosures related to national security and Intelligence;
5. Disclosures that were made for treatment, payment, or health care operations;
6. Disclosures that we made to law enforcement officials or correctional institutions regarding inmates;
and
7. Disclosures that were made as part of a limited data set.

There are certain instances where we may deny your request or temporarily suspend your right to an accounting of disclosures. We may impose a reasonable cost-based fee if you request more than one accounting for the same individual within the same 12-month period provided that we inform the individual in advance of the fees. No fee will be imposed for the initial request.

All requests are to be made in writing to our **Contact**. The request may be for disclosures made up to 6 years before the date of the request

Restriction Requests: An individual has the right to request that we restrict the use and disclosure of their PHI. We generally are not required to agree to these restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency).

All requests are to be in writing to our **Contact**. The request must include (1) the information that is to be limited for use and disclosure; and (2) how you want the information limited for use and disclosure. We are permitted to end the agreement of the requested restriction by providing the individual with written notification.

Confidential Communication: 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 consider all reasonable requests, and must say “yes” if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not. To request a Confidential Communication Request Form, you may write to the **Contact** or print a copy from our website: www.compassrosebenefits.com.

Amendment: An individual has the right to request that we amend their PHI held in a designated record set. The request must explain the reason why the information should be amended. We may deny the request if we did not create the information that is to be amended or for certain other reasons.

If we deny the request, we will provide you with a written explanation within 60 days of your request. You may respond with a statement of disagreement to be appended to the information you want amended.

If we grant the request, then with the individual’s agreement, we will notify relevant parties of the changes and to include the changes in any future disclosures of that information. All requests for amendments are to be made in writing to our **Contact**.

Complaints: All complaints are taken seriously, and each is handled with the utmost confidentiality. If you are concerned that your privacy rights may have been violated, or you disagree with a decision we made about your individual rights, you may file a complaint with our **Contact** or with the HHS Secretary Office of Civil Rights.

We support your right to protect the privacy of your PHI. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint.

Questions: If you would like more information about our privacy practices or have other questions or concerns, please notify our **Contact**.

Effective Date: This notice, and all information included in this notice, is effective as of September 25, 2024, and will remain in effect until such time that we change it.

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/**.