Effective Date: November 1, 2018

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.

Our Pledge Regarding Your Medical Information
Johns Hopkins is committed to protecting the privacy of medical information we create or obtain about you. This Notice tells you about the ways in which we may use and disclose medical information about you. It also describes your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of your medical information. We are required by law to: (i) make sure your medical information is protected; (ii) give you this Notice describing our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your medical information; and (iii) follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect.

Who Will Follow This Notice
The privacy practices described in this Notice will be followed by all health care professionals, employees, medical staff, trainees, students and volunteers of the Johns Hopkins organizations specified at the end of this Notice.

How We May Use and Disclose Medical Information About You
The following sections describe different ways we may use and disclose your medical information. We abide by all applicable laws related to the protection of this information. Not every use or disclosure will be listed. All of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information, however, will fall within one of the following categories:

Treatment. We may use or disclose medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. For example, a doctor treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. We may also share medical information about you with other Johns Hopkins personnel or non-Johns Hopkins health care providers, agencies or facilities in order to provide or coordinate the different things you need, such as prescriptions, lab work and X-rays, or transportation.

Payment. We may use and disclose medical information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at Johns Hopkins or from others, such as an ambulance company, may be billed to you and payment collected from you, an insurance company or another third party. For example, we may need to give information to your health insurance company about surgery you received at Johns Hopkins so your health insurance company will pay us or reimburse you for the surgery.

Health care operations. We may use and disclose medical information about you for Johns Hopkins operations. These uses and disclosures are made to enhance quality of care and for medical staff activities, Johns Hopkins health-sciences education and other teaching programs, and general business activities. For example, we may disclose information to doctors, nurses, technologists, medical and other students, and other Johns Hopkins personnel for performance improvement and educational purposes or we may share information with Johns Hopkins corporate security to maintain the safety of our facilities.

Health information exchange. We may share information that we obtain or create about you with other health care providers or other health care entities, such as your health plan or health insurer, as permitted by law, through Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) in which we participate. For example, information about your past medical care and current medical conditions and medications can be available to us or to your non-Johns Hopkins primary care physician or hospital, if they participate in the HIE as well. Exchange of health information can provide faster access, better coordination of care and assist providers and public health officials in making more informed decisions.

The Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients, Inc. (CRISP), is a regional Internet-based HIE in which we participate. We may share information about you through CRISP for treatment, payment, health care operations, or research purposes. You may opt out of CRISP and disable access to your health information available through CRISP by contacting CRISP at 1-877-952-7477 or completing and submitting an Opt-Out form to CRISP by mail, fax, or through their website at crisphealth.org. Even if you opt-out of CRISP, public health reporting and Controlled Dangerous Substances information, as part of the Maryland Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), will still be available to providers through CRISP as permitted by law.

Your hospital or health care provider may also participate in other HIEs, including HIEs that allow your provider to share your information directly through our electronic medical record system. You may choose to opt-out of these other HIEs by calling 1-855-389-6928.

Fundraising activities. We may contact you to provide information about Johns Hopkins-sponsored activities, including
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fundraising programs and events to support research, education or patient care at Johns Hopkins. For this purpose, we may use your contact information, such as your name, address, phone number, the dates on which and the department from which you received treatment or services at Johns Hopkins, your treating physician’s name, your treatment outcome and your health insurance status. If we do contact you for fundraising activities, the communication you receive will have instructions on how you may ask for us not to contact you again for such purposes, also known as an “opt-out.”

Hospital directory (hospitals only). If you are hospitalized, we may include certain limited information about you in the hospital directory. If you object to your information being included in the hospital directory, you must tell your caregivers or contact the Privacy Office as explained at the end of this Notice and complete a request to opt out of the hospital directory.

Research and related activities. Johns Hopkins conducts research to improve the health of people throughout the world. All research projects conducted by Johns Hopkins must be approved through a special review process to protect patient safety, welfare and confidentiality. We may use and disclose medical information about our patients for research purposes under specific rules determined by the confidentiality provisions of applicable law. In some instances, federal law allows us to use your medical information for research without your authorization, provided we get approval from a special review board. These studies will not affect your treatment or welfare, and your medical information will continue to be protected.

Additional uses and disclosures of your medical information. We may use or disclose your medical information without your authorization (permission) to the following individuals, or for other purposes permitted or required by law, including:

• To tell you about, or recommend, possible treatment alternatives
• To inform you of benefits or services we may provide
• In the event of a disaster, to organizations assisting in a disaster-relief effort so that your family can be notified of your condition and location
• As required by state and federal law
• To prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person
• To authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence or other national security activities
• To coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors, as authorized or required by law as necessary for them to carry out their duties
• To the military if you are a member of the armed forces and we are authorized or required to do so by law
• For workers’ compensation or similar programs providing benefits for work-related injuries or illnesses
• To authorized federal officials so they may conduct special investigations or provide protection to the U.S. President or other authorized persons
• If you are an organ donor, to organizations that handle such organ procurement or transplantation or to an organ bank, as necessary to help with organ procurement, transplantation or donation
  • To governmental, licensing, auditing and accrediting agencies
  • To a correctional institution as authorized or required by law if you are an inmate or under the custody of law enforcement officials
  • To third parties referred to as “business associates” that provide services on our behalf, such as billing, software maintenance and legal services
  • Unless you say no, to anyone involved in your care or payment for your care, such as a friend, family member, or any individual you identify
  • For public health purposes
  • To courts and attorneys when we get a court order, subpoena or other lawful instructions from those courts or public bodies or to defend ourselves against a lawsuit brought against us
  • To law enforcement officials as authorized or required by law

Other uses of medical information. Other uses and disclosures of medical information not covered by this Notice will be made only with your written authorization. Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes and most uses and disclosures for marketing purposes fall within this category and require your authorization before we may use your medical information for these purposes. Additionally, with certain limited exceptions, we are not allowed to sell or receive anything of value in exchange for your medical information without your written authorization. If you provide us authorization to use or disclose medical information about you, you may revoke (withdraw) that authorization, in writing, at any time. However, uses and disclosures made before your withdrawal are not affected by your action and we cannot take back any disclosures we may have already made with your authorization.

Your Rights Regarding Medical Information About You
The records of your medical information are the property of Johns Hopkins. You have the following rights, however, regarding medical information we maintain about you:

Right to inspect and copy. With certain exceptions, you have the right to inspect and/or receive a copy of your medical and billing records or any other of our records that are used by us to make decisions about you. You have the right to request that we send a copy of your medical or billing records to a third party. You are required to submit your request in writing to your caregiver or the appropriate medical records department. We may charge you a reasonable fee for providing you a copy of your records. We may deny access, under certain circumstances. You may request that we designate a licensed health care professional to review the denial. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to request an amendment. If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for Johns Hopkins in your medical and billing records or any other of our records that are used by us to make decisions about you. You are required to submit your request in writing to the Johns
Right to request restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or health care operations.

To request a restriction, you must tell your caregivers or contact the Johns Hopkins Privacy Office using the contact information listed at the end of this Notice. In some cases, you may be asked to submit a written request. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, our agreement must be in writing, and we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment or we are required or permitted by law to disclose it. We are allowed to end the restriction if we inform you that we plan to do so. If you request that we not disclose certain medical information to your health insurer and that medical information relates to a health care product or service for which we, otherwise, have received payment from you or on your behalf, and in full, then we must agree to that request.

Right to request confidential communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. If you want us to communicate with you in a special way, you will need to give us details about how to contact you. You also will need to give us information as to how billing will be handled. We will honor reasonable requests. However, if we are unable to contact you using the requested ways or locations, we may contact you using any information we have.

Right to be notified in the event of a breach. We will notify you if your medical information has been “breached,” which means that your medical information has been used or disclosed in a way that is inconsistent with law and results in it being compromised.
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Johns Hopkins Hospital  Johns Hopkins Regional Physicians
Johns Hopkins Bayview  Johns Hopkins Home
Medical Center      Health Services
Howard County  Johns Hopkins Pediatrics
General Hospital  at Home
Signature OB/GYN  Ophthalmology Associates
Suburban Hospital  Johns Hopkins University
Sibley Memorial Hospital  School of Medicine
Johns Hopkins  Johns Hopkins University
Community Physicians  School of Nursing
Johns Hopkins Pharmaquip

Non-Discrimination Notice
Johns Hopkins complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.


Disclaimer
The Johns Hopkins entities that follow this Notice are affiliated entities. However, each entity is independently responsible for providing medical services to patients in a professional manner and in compliance with applicable privacy laws.