



UNITED HOSPICE, INC.
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 it carefully

USE AND DISCLOSURE OF HEALTH INFORMATION

United Hospice, Inc., [hereafter referred to as “Hospice”] may use your health information for purposes of providing you treatment, obtaining payment for your care and conducting health care operations. Your health information may be used or disclosed only after Hospice has obtained your written consent. Hospice has established a policy to guard against unnecessary disclosure of your health information

The following is a summary of the circumstances under which and purposes for which your health information may be used and disclosed after you have provided your written consent.

Provide Treatment Hospice may use your health information to coordinate care within the organization and with others involved in your care, such as your attending physician, members of the Hospice interdisciplinary team and other health care professionals who have agreed to assist the Hospice in coordinating care. For example, physicians involved in your care will need information about your symptoms in order to prescribe appropriate medications. Hospice also may disclose your health care information to individuals outside of the Hospice involved in your care including family members, clergy whom you have designated, pharmacist, suppliers of medical equipment or other health care professionals that Hospice uses in order to coordinate your care

Obtain Payment Hospice may include your health information in invoices to collect payment from third parties for the care that you may receive from Hospice. For example, Hospice may be required by your health insurer to provide information regarding your health care status so that the insurer will reimburse you or Hospice. Hospice also may need to obtain prior approval from your insurer and may need to explain to the insurer your need for hospice care and the services that will be provided to you.

Conduct Health Care Operations Hospice may use and disclose health care information for its own operations in order to facilitate the function of Hospice and as necessary to provide quality care to all of Hospice patients. Health care operations include such activities as:

- Quality assessment and improvement activities
- Activities designed to improve health or reduce health care costs
- Protocol development, case management and care coordination
- Contacting health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives and other related functions
- Professional review and performance evaluation
- Training programs including those in which students, trainees or practitioners in health care learn under supervision
- Training of non-health care professionals.
- Accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities.
- Review and auditing, including compliance reviews, medical reviews, legal services and compliance programs.
- Business planning and development including cost management and planning related analyses and formulary development.
- Business management and general administrative activities of Hospice
- Fundraising for the benefit of Hospice and certain marketing activities

As an example: Hospice may use your health information to evaluate its staff performance, combine your health information with other Hospice patients in evaluating how to more effectively serve all Hospice patients, disclose your health information to Hospice staff and contracted personnel for training purposes, use your health information to contact you as a reminder regarding a visit to you or contact you or your family as part of general fundraising and community information mailings (unless you tell us you do not want to be contacted)



For Fundraising Activities: Hospice may use information about you including your name, address, phone number and dates you received care from Hospice in order to contact you or your family to raise money for Hospice. The funds raised support the programs and services provided to you and your family and the community. If you do not want Hospice to contact you, notify Director of Development, in writing, and indicate that you do not wish to be contacted.

The following is a summary of the circumstances under which and purposes for which your health information may also be used and disclosed:

When Legally Required Hospice will disclose your health information when it is required to do so by any Federal, State or local law.

When There Are Risks to Public Health Examples under which Hospice may disclose your health information for public activities and purposes are in order to:

- Prevent or control disease, injury or disability, report disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death and the conduct of public health and surveillance, investigations and interventions:
- To report adverse events, products defects, to track products or enable product recalls, repairs and replacements and to conduct recalls, repairs and replacements and to conduct post-marketing surveillance and compliance with requirements of the Food and Drug Administration:
- To notify a person who has been exposed to a communicable disease or who may be at risk of contracting or spreading a disease.

Report Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence Hospice is allowed to notify government authorities if Hospice believes a patient is the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. Hospice will make this disclosure only when specially required or authorized by law or when the patient agrees to the disclosure

Conduct Health Oversight Activities Hospice may disclose your health information to a health oversight agency for activities including audits, civil administrative or criminal investigations, inspections, licensure or disciplinary action. Hospice, however, may not disclose your health information if you are the subject of an investigation and your health information is not directly related to your receipt of health care or public benefits.

In Connection With Judicial and Administrative Proceedings Hospice may disclose your health information in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding in response to an order of a court of administrative tribunal as expressly authorized by such order or in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process, but only when the Hospice makes reasonable efforts to either notify you about the request or to obtain an order protecting your health information.

For Law Enforcement Purposes Hospice may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official for law enforcement purposes as follows:

- As required by law for reporting of certain types of wounds or other physical injuries pursuant to the court order, warrant, subpoena or summons or similar process
- For the purpose of identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person
- Under certain limited circumstances, when you are the victim of a crime
- To a law enforcement official if Hospice has a suspicion that your death was the result of criminal conduct including criminal conduct at Hospice
- In an emergency in order to report a crime

To Coroners and Medical Examiners Hospice may disclose your health information to coroners and medical examiners for purposes of determining your cause of death or for other duties, as authorized by law



Funeral Directors Hospice may disclose your health information to funeral directors consistent with applicable law and if necessary, to carry out their duties with respect to your funeral arrangements. If necessary to carry out their duties, the Hospice may disclose your health information prior to and in reasonable and anticipation, of your death

For Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation Hospice may use or disclose your health information to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking or transplantation of organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating the donation and transplantation

For Research Purposes Hospice may, under very select circumstances, use your health information for research. Before Hospice discloses any of your health information such research purposes, the project will be subject to an extensive approval process. Hospice will ask your permission if any researcher will be granted access to your individually identifiable health information.

In the Event of A Serious Threat To Health Or Safety Hospice may, consistent with applicable law and ethical standards of conduct, disclose your health information if Hospice, in good faith, believes that such disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your health or safety or to the health and safety of the public

For Specified Government Functions In certain circumstances, the Federal regulations authorize the Hospice to use or disclose your health information to facilitate specified government functions relating to military and veterans, national security and intelligence activities, protective services for the president and others, medical suitability determinations and inmates and law enforcement custody

For Worker's Compensation Hospice may release your health information for worker's compensation or similar programs

AUTHORIZATION TO USE OR DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION

Other than as stated above, Hospice will not disclose your health information other than with your written authorization. If you or your representative authorizes Hospice to use or disclose your health information, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time.

YOUR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

You have the following rights regarding your health information that Hospice maintains:

Right to request restrictions You may request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information. You have the right to request a limit on Hospice's disclosure of your health information to someone who is involved in your care or the payment of your care. However, Hospice is not required to agree to your request. If you wish to make a request for restrictions, please call Hospice Compliance Officer at 845-634- 1138

Right to receive confidential communications You have the right to request that Hospice communicate with you in a certain way. For example, you may ask that Hospice only conduct communications pertaining to your health information with you privately with no other family members present. If you wish to receive confidential communications, please contact Hospice Compliance Officer, at 845-634-1138 Hospice will not ask that you provide any reasons for your request and will attempt to honor your reasonable requests for confidential communications.

Right to inspect and copy your health information You have the right to inspect and copy your health information, including billing records. A request to inspect and copy records containing your health information may be made to Hospice Compliance Officer, at 845-634-4974. If you request a copy of your health information, Hospice may charge a reasonable fee for copying and assembling costs associated with your request.



Right to amend health care information If you or your representative believes that your health information records are incorrect or incomplete, you may request that Hospice amend the records. That request may be made as long as the information is maintained by the Hospice. A request for an amendment of records must be made in writing to Hospice Compliance Officer, United Hospice, at 11 Stokum Lane, New City NY 10956. Hospice may deny the request if it is not in writing or does not include a reason for the amendment. The request also may be denied if your health information records were not created by Hospice, if the records you are requesting are not part of Hospice's records, if the health information you wish to amend is not part of the health information you or your representative are permitted to inspect and copy, or if, in the opinion of Hospice, the records containing your health information are accurate and complete.

Right to an accounting You or your representative have the right to request an accounting of disclosure of your health information made by the Hospice for any reason other than for treatment, payment or health operations. The request for an accounting must be made in writing to Hospice Compliance Officer, United Hospice, 11 Stokum Lane, New City NY 10956. The request should specify the time period for the accounting. Accounting requests may not be made for periods of time in excess of six years. Hospice would provide the first accounting you request during any 12 month period without charge. Subsequent accounting requests may be subject to a reasonable cost-based fee.

Right to a paper copy of this notice You or your representative have a right to a separate paper copy of this notice at any time even if you or your representative have received this notice previously. To obtain a separate paper copy, please contact UH's Compliance Officer, at 845-634-4974. Hospice patients or their representative may also obtain a copy of a current version of Notice's of Privacy Practices at its website, www.hospiceofrockland.org.

DUTIES OF HOSPICE

Hospice is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide to you and to your representative this notice of its duties and privacy practices. Hospice is required to abide by terms of this Notice as may be amended from time to time. Hospice reserves the right to change the terms of its Notice and to make the new Notice provisions effective for all health information that it maintains. If Hospice changes its Notice, Hospice will provide a copy of the revised Notice to you or your appointed representative. You or your personal representative has the right to express complaints to Hospice and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services if you or your representative believes that your privacy rights have been violated. Any complaints to Hospice should be made in writing to Hospice's Compliance Officer, United Hospice, 11 Stokum Lane, New City NY 10956. Hospice encourages you to express any concerns you may have regarding the privacy of your information. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all issues regarding patient privacy and your rights under the Federal privacy standards contact Compliance Officer at 11 Stokum Lane, New City NY 10956. Telephone: 845-634-1138

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This notice is effective April 14, 2003, revised March 2016

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS NOTICE,
PLEASE CONTACT UNITED HOSPICE COMPLIANCE OFFICER