For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your health information in situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do and we will try to accommodate your request. In cases where your health information has been shared in the past, we will use your current choice to make decisions about future sharing. In these cases, you have both the right and choice to:

• Tell family, close friends, or others involved in your care about your condition
• Share information in a disaster relief situation
• Include your information in a hospital directory

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are unconscious, we may go ahead and share your information if you believe it is in your best interest. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

Except as permitted or required by law, in these cases we never share your information unless you give us your permission.

Most marketing uses:
• Most sharing of psychotherapy notes, specialized substance abuse program records, and HIV-related testing and treatment
• We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

Our Responsibilities

We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.

• We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
• We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.

We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us you can in writing. If you tell us you can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. If we make a change, the new notice will be available upon request, in our offices, and on our web site.

Effective Date: September 23, 2013
Sept2013_Rev6

Joint Notice of Privacy Practices

This Joint Notice of Privacy Practices applies to HHC Member Organizations. The following covered entities and their respective medical staff are part of an Organized Health Care Arrangement. If you have a question about this Notice, please talk to the person listed for your organization.

How do we use and share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways:
• Treat you as a patient. For example, we may obtain health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you as a patient. If we obtain health information for a lawsuit, we may provide copies of your health information to the person who asks to see it.
• Operate our organization. We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.
• As required by law. We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.
• For payment. We can use and share health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

How can we share your health information?

We are allowed to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. For more information see www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

Health information exchanges

We may participate in certain health information exchanges whereby we may disclose your health information, as permitted by law, to other health care providers or entities for treatment. A full list of these arrangements can be found on our website, https://hartzfordhealthcare.org/rights-privacy, or may be obtained from the Office of Compliance and Integrity at 860.972.1573.

• Help with public health and safety issues
We can share your health information for these purposes:
• Preventing disease
• Reporting adverse reactions to medications
• Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety
• Helping with product recalls
• Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety
• Do research. We can use or share your information for research.

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• Help with public health and safety issues
We can share your health information for these purposes:
• Preventing disease
• Reporting adverse reactions to medications
• Preventing suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
• Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety
• Do research. We can use or share your information for research.

For more information see www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html.

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