

CITY OF LAKEWOOD  
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

Purpose of this Notice: The City of Lakewood is required by law to maintain the privacy of certain confidential health care information, known as Protected Health Information or PHI, and to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI. This Notice describes your legal rights, advises you of our privacy practices, and lets you know how the City of Lakewood is permitted to use and disclose PHI about you.

The Notice outlines our legal duties and privacy practices respect to your PHI. It not only describes our privacy practices and your legal rights, but lets you know, among other things, how the City of Lakewood is permitted to use and disclose PHI about you, how you can access and copy that information, how you may request amendment of that information, and how you may request restrictions on our use and disclosure of your PHI.

The City of Lakewood is also required to abide by the terms of the version of this Notice currently in effect. In most situations we may use this information as described in this Notice without your permission, but there are some situations where we may use it only after we obtain your written authorization, if we are required by law to do so. We respect your privacy, and treat all health care information about our patients with care under strict policies of confidentiality that all of our staff are committed to following at all times.

Uses and Disclosures of PHI: The City of Lakewood may use PHI for the purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations, in most cases without your written permission. Examples of our use of your PHI:

NOTE: If you are less than 18 years old, your parents or guardians will receive your private health information, unless by law you are able to consent for your own health care treatment. If you are, then your private health information will not be shared with parents or guardians unless you sign an authorization form. You may also ask to have your health information sent to a different person that is helping you with your health care.

For treatment. This includes such things as verbal and written information that we obtain about you and use pertaining to your medical condition and treatment provided to you by us and other medical personnel (including doctors and nurses who give orders to allow us to provide treatment to you). It also includes information we give to other health care personnel to whom we transfer your care and treatment, and includes transfer of PHI via radio or telephone to the hospital or dispatch center as well as providing the hospital with a copy of the written record we create in the course of providing you with treatment and transport.

For payment. This includes any activities we must undertake in order to get reimbursed for the services we provide to you, including such things as organizing your PHI and submitting bills to insurance companies (either directly or through a third party billing company), management of billed claims for services rendered, medical necessity determinations and reviews, utilization review, and collection of outstanding accounts.

For health care operations. This includes quality assurance activities, licensing, and training programs to ensure that our personnel meet our standards of care and follow established policies and procedures, obtaining legal and financial services, conducting business planning, processing grievances and complaints, creating reports that do not individually identify you for data collection purposes, fundraising, and certain marketing activities.

Use and Disclosure of PHI Without Your Authorization. The City of Lakewood is permitted to use PHI *without* your written authorization, or opportunity to object in certain situations, including:

- For the City of Lakewood's use in treating you or in obtaining payment for services provided to you or in other health care operations;
- For the treatment activities of another health care provider;
- To another health care provider or entity for the payment activities of the provider or entity that receives the information (such as your hospital or insurance company);
- To another health care provider (such as the hospital to which you are transported) for the health care operations activities of the entity that receives the information as long as the entity receiving the information has or has had a relationship with you and the PHI pertains to that relationship;
- For health care fraud and abuse detection or for activities related to compliance with the law;

To a family member, other relative, or close personal friend or other individual involved in your care if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to your family, relatives, or friends if we infer from the circumstances that you would not object. For example, we may assume you agree to our disclosure of your personal health information to your spouse when your spouse has called the ambulance for you. In situations where you are not capable of objecting (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or medical emergency), we may, in our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your family member, relative, or friend is in your best interest. In that situation, we will disclose only health information relevant to that person's involvement in your care. For example, we may inform the person who accompanied you in the ambulance that you have certain symptoms and we may give that person an update on your vital signs and treatment that is being administered by our ambulance crew;

This notice of use of protected health information describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how

you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully. To a public health authority in certain situations (such as reporting a birth, death or disease as required by law, as part of a public health investigation, to report child or adult abuse or neglect or domestic violence, to report adverse events such as product defects, or to notify a person about exposure to a possible communicable disease as required by law;

- For judicial and administrative proceedings as required by a court or administrative order, or in some cases in response to a subpoena or other legal process;
- For law enforcement activities in limited situations, such as when there is a warrant for the request, or when the information is needed to locate a suspect or stop a crime;
- For military, national defense and security and other special government functions;
- To avert a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public at large;
- For workers' compensation purposes, and in compliance with workers' compensation laws;
- If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary to facilitate organ donation and transplantation;
- We may use or disclose health information about you in a way that does not personally identify you or reveal who you are.

Any other use or disclosure of PHI, other than those listed above will only be made with your written authorization, (the authorization must specifically identify the information we seek to use or disclose, as well as when and how we seek to use or disclose it). **You may revoke your authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that we have already used or disclosed medical information in reliance on that authorization.**

**Patient Rights:** As a patient, you have a number of rights with respect to the protection of your PHI, including:

**The right to access copy or inspect your PHI.** This means you may come to our offices and inspect and copy most of the medical information about you that we maintain. We may also charge you a reasonable fee for you to copy any medical information that you have the right to access. In limited circumstances, we may deny you access to your medical information, and you may appeal certain types of denials. We have available forms to request access to your PHI and we will provide a written response if we deny you access and let you know your appeal rights. Contact the Health Information Privacy Officer for these forms.

The right to amend your PHI. You have the right to ask us to amend written medical information that we may have about you. We will generally amend your information within 60 days of your request and will notify you when we have amended the information. We are permitted by law to deny your request to amend your medical information only in certain circumstances, like when we believe the information you have asked us to amend is correct. If you wish to request that we amend the medical information that we have about you, you should contact the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice.

**The right to request an accounting of our use and disclosure of your PHI.** You may request an accounting from us of certain disclosures of your medical information that we have made in the last six years prior to the date of your request. We are not required to give you an accounting of information we have used or disclosed for purposes of treatment, payment or health care operations, or when we share your health information with our business associates, like our billing company or a medical facility from/to which we have transported you. We are also not required to give you an accounting of our uses of protected health information for which you have already given us written authorization. If you wish to request an accounting of the medical information about you that we have used or

disclosed that is not exempted from the accounting requirement, you should contact the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice.

**The right to request that we restrict the uses and disclosures of your PHI.** You have the right to request that we restrict how we use and disclose your medical information that we have about you for treatment, payment or health care operations, or to restrict the information that is provided to family, friends and other individuals involved in your health care. But if you request a restriction and the information you asked us to restrict is needed to provide you with emergency treatment, then we may use the PHI or disclose the PHI to a health care provider to provide you with emergency treatment. The City of Lakewood is not required to agree to any restrictions you request, but any restrictions agreed to by the City of Lakewood are binding on the City of Lakewood.

**Internet, Electronic Mail, and the Right to Obtain Copy of Paper Notice on Request.** If we maintain a web site, we will prominently post a copy of this Notice on our web site and make the Notice available electronically through the web site. If you allow us, we will forward you this Notice by electronic mail instead of on paper and you may always request a paper copy of the Notice.

**Revisions to the Notice:** The City of Lakewood reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time, and the changes will be effective immediately and will apply to all protected health information that we maintain. Any material changes to the Notice will be promptly posted in our facilities and posted to our web site, if we maintain one. You can get a copy of the latest version of this Notice by contacting the Privacy Officer identified below.

**Your Legal Rights and Complaints:** You also have the right to complain to us, or to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. You will not be retaliated against in any way for filing a complaint with us or to the government. Should you have any questions, comments or complaints you may

direct all inquiries to the privacy officer listed at the end of this Notice. Individuals will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

**How Can I Find Out If My Health Information Has Been Released Without My Authorization?**

To find out if your health information has been released without your authorization for purposes other than Treatment, Payment or Operations, you may call the City of Lakewood at (216) 521-7580 or (216) 529-6653 for TDD calls, and ask for a "Request for Accounting for Disclosures" form. Simply fill out the form and send it to the City of Lakewood, Attention: Health Information Privacy Officer, 12650 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

**May I Have A Copy Of This Notice?**

This notice is yours. You may obtain a copy of this notice electronically via the City's website, [www.ci.lakewood.oh.us](http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us), or request additional paper copies by contacting the City of Lakewood Health Information Privacy Officer at (216) 521-7580.

**Your Legal Rights and Complaints:**

You have the right to complain if you believe your privacy rights have been violated. If you wish to complain, please contact the City of Lakewood Health Information Privacy Officer or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights at (800) 368-1019.

If you have any questions or if you wish to file a complaint or exercise any rights listed in this Notice, please contact:

City of Lakewood  
Health Information Privacy Officer  
12650 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107  
(216) 521-7580  
(216) 529-6653 (TDD)



**CITY OF LAKEWOOD**

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

Effective Date of Notice:  
April 14, 2003

Health Insurance Portability and  
Accountability Act  
(HIPAA)



City of Lakewood  
12650 Detroit Avenue  
Lakewood, OH 44107  
(216) 521-7580  
[www.ci.lakewood.oh.us](http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us)