

## Notice of Privacy Practices

*Your Information.  
Your Rights.  
Our Responsibilities.*

This Notice describes how your medical information, also referred to as Protected Health Information (PHI), may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information.

**Please review carefully.**

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge receipt of the Aria's Notice of Privacy Practices.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATIENT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Patient did not sign for receipt of Notice because:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Staff Name

Date

## When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights.

This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

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### **Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record**

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
  - We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.
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### **Ask us to correct your medical record**

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
  - We may say “no” to your request, but we’ll tell you why in writing within 60 days.
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### **Request confidential communications**

- 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 say “yes” to all reasonable requests.
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### **Ask us to limit what we use or share**

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our operations.
  - We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.
- If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer.
  - We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.

## Get a list of those with whom we've shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we've shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We'll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

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## Get a copy of this privacy notice

- You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

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## Choose someone to act for you

- If you have given someone medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

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## File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on the back page.
- 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/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/)**.
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

# Your Choices

**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 information in the situations described below, talk to us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

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**In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:**

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in your care
- 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 we 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.*

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**In these cases we never share your information unless you give us written permission:**

- Marketing purposes
  - Sale of your information
  - Most sharing of psychotherapy notes
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**In the case of fundraising:**

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

# Our Uses and Disclosures

## How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

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### Treat you

- We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.

**Example:** A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.

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### Run our organization

- We can use and share your health information to run our hospitals and practices, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

**Example:** We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.

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### Bill for your services

- We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

**Example:** We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for your services.

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# Our Uses and Disclosures

## How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required 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](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

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### Help with public health and safety issues

- We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:
  - Preventing disease
  - Helping with product recalls
  - Reporting adverse reactions to medications
  - Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
  - Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone’s health or safety

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### Do research

- We can use or share your information for health research.

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### Comply with the law

- We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we’re complying with federal privacy law.

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### Respond to organ and tissue donation requests

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.

## **Work with a medical examiner or funeral director**

- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

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## **Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests**

- We can use or share health information about you:
- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law
- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

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## **Respond to lawsuits and legal actions**

- We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena.

*Federal and State laws require special privacy protections for certain highly confidential information about you. This includes PHI that is:*

- 1. maintained in psychotherapy notes;*
- 2. documentation related to mental health or developmental disabilities services;*
- 3. drug and alcohol abuse, prevention, treatment and referral information;*
- 4. information related to HIV status, testing, treatment as well as any information related to the treatment or diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases; and*
- 5. PHI related to genetic testing.*

*Generally, we must obtain your specific authorization to release this type of information. However, there are limited circumstances under the law when this information may be released without your consent. For example, certain sexually transmitted diseases must be reported to the Department of Health.*

## **Health Information Exchange**

*Aria participates in a Health Information Exchange (HIE) that allows us to electronically share protected health information with local health care providers that are participating in the HIE to coordinate your care. You may also access your test results and other PHI electronically through the HIE. HIEs are being developed at the hospital, regional, state and national levels so that providers will have prompt access to your records for your care. Currently we only share information with your providers through the HIE, although in the future we may participate in HIEs with other providers, plans and billing companies. More information on our HIE, HealthShare Exchange of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Inc., may be found at: [www.hsxsepa.org](http://www.hsxsepa.org)*

*You have the right to “opt-out” or decline to participate in the networked HIE. Information about this option is available at <http://www.hsxsepa.org/patient-options-opt-out-back>*

## **Use or Disclosure for the Aria Health Inpatient Directory**

*If you are admitted to an Aria Health hospital, we may include your name, room number, general health condition, and religious affiliation in our hospital patient directory without obtaining your written authorization, unless you object to inclusion in the directory. Information in the hospital directory (other than religious affiliation) may be disclosed to anyone who asks for you by name, either in person or by telephone. Religious affiliation will only be disclosed to members of the clergy.*

# 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 we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.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. The new notice will be available upon request, in our office, and on our web site.

## This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the following organizations.

*This Notice describes the privacy practices of Aria Health including its medical facilities, Aria Health Physician Services, Professional Home Health Services, and the physicians that are on the Medical Staff of Aria Health when these individuals are providing services to you as a patient of Aria Health.*

*This Notice also relates to:*

- *Any health care professional authorized to enter information into your Aria Health patient record.*
- *All departments, units and programs of Aria Health.*
- *All Aria Health sites and locations.*

*In addition, these entities, sites and locations may share medical information with each other for treatment, payment and health care operations as described in this Notice.*

### **Aria Health System**

10800 Knights Rd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19114  
[www.ariahealth.org](http://www.ariahealth.org)

Chief Compliance Officer  
Telephone: 215-612-5441

