



Notice of Privacy Practices

Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.

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.**

YOUR RIGHTS

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

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

Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical information

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical information 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.
- To inspect and receive a copy of your medical information call SWHP Customer Advocacy at 254-298-3000 or 800-321-7947.

Ask us to correct or amend 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.
- To request an amendment, you must contact SWHP Customer Advocacy at 254-298-3000 or 800-321-7947.

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.
- To request confidential communications you must contact SWHP Customer Advocacy at 254-298-3000 or 800-321-7947. SWHP will not ask you the reason for your request. SWHP will accommodate all reasonable requests.

Ask us to limit or restrict 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.
- To request an accounting of disclosures, you must contact SWHP Customer Advocacy at 254-298-3000 or, 800-321-7947.

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. You may also view a copy of the Notice on our member web site at www.swhp.org.

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.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting SWHP Customer Advocacy at 254-298-3000 or 800-321-7947 or write:
Scott & White Health Plan
c/o Corporate Compliance
1206 West Campus D
Temple, TX 76502
- 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/.
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

For questions or other complaints relating to health plan coverage, call SWHP at 254-298-3000 or 800-321-7947.

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.

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.

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

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.

Treat you

We may use or disclose health information to aid in your treatment or the coordination of your care. For example, we may disclose information to your physicians or hospitals to help them provide medical care to you.

Run our organization

We may use or disclose health information as necessary to operate and manage our business activities related to providing and managing your health care coverage. For example, we might talk to your physician to suggest a disease management or wellness program that could help improve your health or we may analyze data to determine how we can improve our services.

For Payment

We may use or disclose your information for payment of premiums due to us, to determine your coverage, and for payment of healthcare services you receive. For example, we may tell a doctor if you are eligible for coverage and what percentage of the bill may be covered.

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.

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

For Underwriting Purposes

- We may use or disclose your health information for underwriting purposes; however, we will not use or disclose your genetic information for such purposes.

Do research

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

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.

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.

Address worker’s 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

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.

Student Immunizations to Schools

- We can provide proof of your child's immunizations to their school based on your verbal or written permission to do so.

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.

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 website.

This Notice of Privacy Practices applies to the following organizations:

Scott and White Health Plan, Insurance Company of Scott and White, and its affiliated entities (collectively SWHP), its professional staff, employees, and volunteers.

Effective Date: April 14, 2003

Revised Date: August 15, 2014