

## ***NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES***

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

Community Visions LLC is required by law to provide you with this Notice so that you will understand how we may use or share your information from your Designated Record Set. The Designated Record Set includes financial and health information referred to in this Notice as “Protected Health Information” (“PHI”) or simply “health information.” We are required to adhere to the terms outlined in this Notice. If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact the Privacy Officer at 703-680-5127.

### **UNDERSTANDING YOUR HEALTH RECORD AND INFORMATION**

Upon admission to Community Visions LLC, a record of your stay is made containing health and financial information. Typically, this record contains information about your condition, the treatment and payment of care. We may use and/or disclose this information to:

- plan your care and treatment
- communicate with other health professionals involved in your care
- document the care you receive
- educate health professionals
- provide information for medical research
- provide information to public health officials
- evaluate and improve the care we provide
- obtain payment for the care we provide

Understanding what is in your record and how your health information is used helps you to:

- ensure it is accurate
- better understand who may access your health information
- make more informed decisions when authorizing disclosure to others

### **HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

The following categories describe the ways that we use and disclose health information. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall into one of the categories.

- **For Treatment.** We may use or disclose health information about you to provide you with medical treatment. We may disclose health information about you to doctors, nurses, therapists or other personnel who are involved in taking care of you at Community Visions LLC for example, a doctor treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process. In addition, the doctor may need to tell the dietitian if you have diabetes so that we can plan your meals. Different departments of Community Visions LLC may also share health information about you in order to coordinate your care and provide you with treatment. We may also disclose health information about you to people outside Community Visions LLC. who may be involved in your medical care after you leave our program. This may include family members, or visiting nurses to provide care in your home.
- **For Payment.** We may use and disclose health information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at Community Visions LLC may be billed to you, an insurance company or a third party.

For example, in order to be paid, we may need to share information with your health plan about services provided to you. We may also tell your health plan about a treatment you are going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your plan will cover the treatment.

- **For Health Care Operations.** We may use and disclose health information about you for our day-to-day health care operations. This is necessary to ensure that all individuals receive quality care. For example, we may use health information for quality assessment and improvement activities and for developing and evaluating clinical protocols. We may also combine health information about many individuals to help determine what additional services should offer, what services should be discontinued, and whether certain new treatments are effective. Health information about you may be used by our corporate office for business development and planning, cost management analyses, insurance claims management, risk management activities, and in developing and testing information systems and programs. We may also use and disclose information for professional review, performance evaluation, and for training programs. Other aspects of health care operations that may require use and disclosure of your health information include accreditation, certification, licensing and credentialing activities, review and auditing, including compliance reviews, medical reviews, legal services and compliance programs. Your health information may be used and disclosed for the business management and general activities of Community Visions, LLC. including resolution of internal grievances, customer service and due diligence in connection with a sale or transfer of Community Visions, LLC.. In limited circumstances, we may disclose your health information to another entity subject to HIPAA for its own health care operations. We may remove information that identifies you so that the health information may be used to study health care and health care delivery without learning the identities of individuals. We may disclose your age, birth date and general information about you in Community Visions, LLC newsletter, on activities calendars, and to entities in the community that wish to acknowledge your birthday or commemorate your achievements on special occasions. If you are receiving therapy services, we may post your photograph and general information about your progress.

#### **OTHER ALLOWABLE USES OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION**

- **Business Associates.** There are some services provided at Community Visions, LLC through contracts with business associates. Examples include medical directors, outside attorneys and an electronic records management system for your health record. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health information so that they can perform the job we've asked them to do and bill you or your third-party payer for services rendered. To protect your health information, however, we require the business associate to appropriately safeguard your information.
- **Providers.** Many services provided to you, as part of your care at Community Visions, LLC, are offered by participants in one of our organized healthcare arrangements. These participants include a variety of providers such as physicians (e.g., MD, DO, Podiatrist, Dentist, Optometrist), therapists (e.g., Physical therapist, Occupational therapist, Speech therapist), portable radiology units, clinical labs, hospice caregivers, pharmacies, psychologists, LCSWs, and suppliers (e.g., prosthetic, orthotics).
- **Treatment Alternatives.** We may use and disclose health information to tell you about possible treatment options or alternatives that may be of interest to you.
- **Health-Related Benefits and Services and Reminders.** We may contact you to provide appointment reminders or information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.
- **Facility Directory.** We may include information about you in Community Visions, LLC directory while you are an individual. This information may include your name, location at Community Visions, LLC, your general condition (e.g., fair, stable, etc.) and your religion. The directory information, except for your religion, may be disclosed to people who ask for you by name. Your religion may be given to a member of the clergy, such as a priest or rabbi, even if they don't ask for you by name. This is so your

family, friends and clergy can visit you at Community Visions, LLC and generally know how you are doing.

- **Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care.** Unless you object, we may disclose health information about you to a friend or family member who is involved in your care. We may also give information to someone who helps pay for your care. In addition, we may disclose health information about you to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.
- **As Required By Law.** We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local law.
- **To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety.** We may use and disclose health information about you to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. We would do this only to help prevent the threat.
- **Organ and Tissue Donation.** If you are an organ donor, we may disclose health information to organizations that handle organ procurement to facilitate donation and transplantation.
- **Military and Veterans.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may disclose health information about you as required by military authorities. We may also disclose health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- **Research.** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose health information about you for research purposes. For example, a research project may involve comparing the health and recovery of all individuals who received one medication to those who received another, for the same condition. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process. This process evaluates a proposed research project and its use of health information, trying to balance the research needs with individuals' need for privacy of their health information. Before we use or disclose health information for research, the project will have been approved through this research approval process. We may, however, disclose health information about you to people preparing to conduct a research project so long as the health information they review does not leave a Facility.
- **Workers' Compensation.** We may disclose health information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- **Reporting** Federal and state laws may require or permit Community Visions, LLC to disclose certain health information related to the following:
  - *Public Health Risks.* We may disclose health information about you for public health purposes, including:
    - Prevention or control of disease, injury or disability
    - Reporting births and deaths;
    - Reporting child/adult abuse or neglect;
    - Reporting reactions to medications or problems with products;
    - Notifying people of recalls of products;
    - Notifying a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease;
    - Notifying the appropriate government authority if we believe an individual has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law.
    - To notify a person or organization required to receive information on FDA-regulated products.

- *Health Oversight Activities.* We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities may include audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.
- *Judicial and Administrative Proceedings:* If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information about you in response to a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.
- *Reporting Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence:* Notifying the appropriate government agency if we believe an individual has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence.
- **Law Enforcement.** We may disclose health information when requested by a law enforcement official:
  - In reporting certain injuries as required by law such as gunshot wounds, burns or injuries to perpetrators of crime;
  - In response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process;
  - To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person;
  - About you, the victim of a crime if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain your agreement;
  - About a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct;
  - About criminal conduct at Community Visions, LLC; and
  - In emergency circumstances to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.
- **Coroners, Medical Examiners and Funeral Directors.** We may disclose medical information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We may also disclose medical information to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties.
- **National Security and Intelligence Activities.** We may disclose health information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.
- **Correctional Institution:** Should you be an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose to the institution or its agents health information necessary for your health and the health and safety of others.

#### **OTHER USES OF HEALTH INFORMATION**

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will no longer use or disclose health information about you for the reasons covered by your written authorization. You understand that we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission, and that we are required to retain our records of the care that we provided to you.

#### **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

Although your health record is the property of Community Visions, LLC, the information belongs to you. You have the following rights regarding your health information:

- **Right to Inspect and Copy.** With some exceptions, you have the right to review and copy your health information in paper or electronic form.

*You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at 703-680-5127. We may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.*

- **Right to Amend.** If you feel that health information in your record is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have this right for as long as the information is kept by or for Community Visions, LLC.

*You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at 17931 S. Fraley Blvd. Ste #300, Dumfries, VA 22026. In addition, you must provide a reason for your request.*

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
  - Is not part of the health information kept by or for Community Visions, LLC; or
  - Is accurate and complete.
  - Is not part of the health information kept by or for our programs.
- **Right to an Accounting of Disclosures.** You have the right to request an "accounting of disclosures". This is a list of certain disclosures we made of your health information, other than those made for purposes such as treatment, payment, or health care operations.

*You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at 17931 S. Fraley Blvd. Ste #300, Dumfries, VA. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years from the date the request is submitted and may not include dates before April 14, 2003. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper or electronically). The first list you request within a twelve month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred. We will provide you with a list of disclosures in paper form within 30 days of your request, subject to a possible 30-day extension in which case we will notify you if we are unable to supply the list within the original 30-day time period.*

- **Right to Request Restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information we use or disclose about you. For example, you may request that we limit the health information we disclose to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care. You could ask that we not use or disclose information about a surgery you had to a family member or friend. You have a right to obtain restrictions or limitations on the disclosure of health information in electronic or any other form to a health plan for payment or healthcare operations with respect to specific items and services for which you have paid the covered entity out of pocket in full.

**We are not required to agree to your request.** If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment.

*You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at 17931 S. Fraley Blvd. Ste #300, Dumfries, VA 22026. In your request, you must tell us (1) what information you want to limit; (2) whether you want to limit our use, disclosure or both; and (3) to whom you want the limits to apply, for example, disclosures to your spouse.*

- **Right to Request Alternate Communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a confidential manner or at a specific location. For example, you may ask that we only contact you via mail to a post office box.

*You must submit your request in writing to the Privacy Officer at 17931 S. Fraley Blvd. Ste #300, Dumfries, VA 22026. We will not ask you the reason for your request. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.*

- **Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice.** You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice of Privacy Practices even if you have agreed to receive the Notice electronically. You may ask us to give you a copy of this Notice at any time.
- *You may obtain a copy of this Notice at our website, [www.comconinc.net](http://www.comconinc.net)*

To obtain a paper copy of this Notice, contact the Privacy Officer at 703-680-5127.

### **CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE**

We reserve the right to change this Notice. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for health information we already have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice in Community Visions, LLC. and on the website. The Notice will specify the effective date on the first page, in the top right-hand corner. In addition, if material changes are made to this Notice, the Notice will contain an effective date for the revisions and copies can be obtained by contacting Community Visions, LLC administrator.

### **COMPLAINTS**

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with Community Visions, LLC or with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

To file a complaint with Community Visions, LLC, contact:

*The Privacy Officer*

*17931 S. Fraley Blvd. Ste #300*

*Dumfries, VA. 22026*

OR To file a complaint with the U.S Department of Health and Human Services contact:

Office for Civil Rights

Medical Privacy, Complaints Division

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Ave, SW, HHH Building, Room #509F

Washington, D.C. 20201

All complaints must be submitted in writing. **You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.**

### **BREACH**

Following a breach of unsecured protected health information covered entities must provide notification of the breach to affected individuals, the Secretary, and, in certain circumstances, to the media. In addition, business associates must notify covered entities that a breach has occurred.

- **Individual Notice**

Covered entities must notify affected individuals following the discovery of a breach of unsecured protected health information. Covered entities must provide this individual notice in written form by first-class mail, or alternatively, by e-mail if the affected individual has agreed to receive such notices electronically. If the covered entity has insufficient or out-of-date contact information for 10 or more individuals, the covered entity must provide substitute individual notice by either posting the notice on the home page of its web site or by providing the notice in major print or broadcast media where the affected individuals likely reside. If the covered entity has insufficient or out-of-date contact information for fewer than 10 individuals, the covered entity may provide substitute notice by an alternative form of written, telephone, or other means.

These individual notifications must be provided without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 days following the discovery of a breach and must include, to the extent possible, a description of the breach, a description of the types of information that were involved in the breach, the steps affected individuals should take to protect themselves from potential harm, a brief description of what the covered entity is doing to investigate the breach, mitigate the harm, and prevent further breaches, as well as contact information for the covered entity. Additionally, for substitute notice provided via web posting or major print or broadcast media, the notification must include a toll-free number for individuals to contact the covered entity to determine if their protected health information was involved in the breach.

- **Media Notice**

Covered entities that experience a breach affecting more than 500 residents of a State or jurisdiction are, in addition to notifying the affected individuals, required to provide notice to prominent media outlets serving the State or jurisdiction. Covered entities will likely provide this notification in the form of a press release to appropriate media outlets serving the affected area. Like individual notice, this media notification must be provided without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 days following the discovery of a breach and must include the same information required for the individual notice.

- **Notice to the Secretary**

In addition to notifying affected individuals and the media (where appropriate), covered entities must notify the Secretary of breaches of unsecured protected health information. Covered entities will notify the Secretary by visiting the HHS web site and filling out and electronically submitting a breach report form. If a breach affects 500 or more individuals, covered entities must notify the Secretary without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 days following a breach. If, however, a breach affects fewer than 500 individuals, the covered entity may notify the Secretary of such breaches on an annual basis. Reports of breaches affecting fewer than 500 individuals are due to the Secretary no later than 60 days after the end of the calendar year in which the breaches occurred.

- **Notification by a Business Associate**

If a breach of unsecured protected health information occurs at or by a business associate, the business associate must notify the covered entity following the discovery of the breach. A business associate must provide notice to the covered entity without unreasonable delay and no later than 60 days from the discovery of the breach. To the extent possible, the business associate should provide the covered entity with the identification of each individual affected by the breach as well as any information required to be provided by the covered entity in its notification to affected individuals.