

HIPAA PRIVACY RULE

The HIPAA Privacy Rule establishes national standards to protect individuals' medical records and other personal health information and applies to health plans, healthcare clearinghouses, and those healthcare providers that conduct certain healthcare transactions electronically. The Rule requires appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy of personal health information, and sets limits and conditions on the uses and disclosures that may be made of such information without patient authorization. The Rule also gives patients rights over their health information, including rights to examine and obtain a copy of their health records, and to request corrections.

The paragraph at the bottom of this page is an addendum to our notice of Privacy Practices (see Notice of Privacy Practices). Some exciting changes in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system across the physician practices at Northwestern are taking place. The eventual plan is for all physician practices to be able to access all their patients' electronic records within the Northwestern physician system (e.g., your internist will be able to look into your lab results at your gynecologist's office and see that you had a Pap and it was normal).

Please read the paragraph below. If you wish your information to be accessible to your other doctors at Northwestern, please opt in to this program. Please feel free to ask should you have any questions.

This practice is using an Electronic Health Record (EHR) information system in coordination with Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH). The collection and use of all information through the EHR system is primarily for the purpose of treatment of patients by NMH, this medical practice, and other medical practices in a clinically integrated care setting. The information collected through the EHR system may include information regarding my diagnosis and treatment for mental health, developmental disabilities, HIV, AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, genetic testing and counseling. The EHR system is not equipped to segregate such data from my other health information. All information collected through the EHR system may also be shared with, and used by, NMH and certain other hospitals, academic institutions, and healthcare providers that perform medical or research activities on NMH's campus or otherwise in conjunction with NMH (including, but not limited to Northwestern University, the Feinberg School of Medicine, Children's Memorial Hospital, and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago) for the following related activities, which may include: (a) conducting peer review; (b) promoting quality assurance; (c) mortality and morbidity analysis; (d) conducting utilization review; (e) evaluating and improving the quality of care; (f) promoting and maintaining professional standards; (g) examining costs and maintaining cost control; (h) conducting medical audits; (i) assisting the medical staff membership and credentialing process; (j) performing data quality management; (k) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare; (l) conducting research; (m) extracting data from the EHR system and any related database for any of the above activities.

Please check the appropriate box and print, sign, and date.

I have read the privacy practices and consent to sharing my information with Northwestern providers

Sign: _____ Date: _____

I have read the privacy practices and DO NOT consent to sharing my information with Northwestern providers

Sign: _____ Date: _____