

Assuring Your Privacy

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.

Effective date: March 2019



**MID COAST-PARKVIEW
HEALTH**

WWW.MIDCOASTPARKVIEWHEALTH.COM

Our Obligations

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of protected health information.
- Provide you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices regarding health information about you.
- Follow the terms of our notice that is currently in effect.

How We May Use and Disclose Health Information

The following describes the ways we may use and disclose health information that identifies you. Except for the purposes described below, we will use health information only with your written permission. You may revoke such permission at any time in writing.

For Treatment. We may use and disclose health information for your treatment and to provide you with treatment-related healthcare services. For example, we may disclose health information to doctors, nurses, technicians, or other personnel who are involved in your medical care and need the information to provide you with medical care. We may include your name, location, general health condition, and religious affiliation in a patient directory unless you object to inclusion in the directory. You may limit visitors and telephone calls upon request.

For Payment. We may use and disclose health information so that we or others may bill and receive payment from you, an insurance company, or third party for the treatment and services you received. For example, we may give your health plan information so that they will pay for your treatment.

For Healthcare Operations. We may use and disclose health information for healthcare operation purposes. These uses and disclosures are necessary to make sure that all of our patients receive quality care. We also may share information with other entities that have a relationship with you (for example, your health plan) for their healthcare operation activities.

Mid Coast–Parkview Health does not use protected health information for marketing or fundraising activities.

Appointment Reminders, Treatment Alternatives, and Health-Related Benefits and Services. We may use and disclose health information to contact you to remind you that you have an appointment with us. We also may use and disclose health information to tell you about treatment alternatives or health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. When appropriate, we may share health information with a person who is involved in your medical care or payment for your care, such as your family or a close friend.

We also may notify your family about your location or general condition or disclose such information to an entity assisting in a disaster relief effort or in the event you are incapacitated. We will only disclose information that we believe is directly relevant to the person's involvement in your care. We may disclose information to such persons of your location, general condition, or death.

Research. Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose health information for research. For example, a research project may involve comparing the health of patients who received one treatment to those who received another for the same condition. Before we use or disclose health information for research, the project will go through a special approval process. Even without special approval, we may permit researchers to look at records to help them identify patients who may be included in their research project or for other similar purposes, as long as they do not remove or take a copy of any health information.

Special Situations

As Required by Law. We will disclose health information when required to do so by international, federal, state, or local law.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety. We may use and disclose health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person. Disclosures, however, will be made only to someone who may be able to help prevent the threat.

Business Associates. We may disclose health information to our business associates that perform functions on our behalf or provide us with services if the information is necessary for such functions or services. For example, we may use another company to perform billing services on our behalf. All of our business associates are obligated to protect the privacy of your information and are not allowed to use or disclose any information other than as specified in our contract.

Organ and Tissue Donation. If you are an organ donor, we may use or release health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or other entities engaged in procurement, banking, or transportation of organs, eyes, or tissues to facilitate organ, eye, or tissue donation and transplantation.

Military and Veterans. If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release health information as required by military command authorities. We also may release health information to the appropriate foreign military authority if you are a member of a foreign military.

Workers' Compensation. We may release health information for workers' compensation or similar programs.

These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Public Health Risks. We may disclose health information for public health activities. These activities generally include disclosures to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability; report births and deaths; report child abuse or neglect; report reactions to medications or problems with products; notify people of recalls of products they may be using; a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition; and the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient 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.

Health Oversight Activities. We may disclose health information to a health oversight agency for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities include, for example, audits, investigations, inspections, and licensure. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the healthcare system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.

Data Breach Notification Purposes. We may use or disclose your protected health information to provide legally required notices of unauthorized access to or disclosure of your health information.

Lawsuits and Disputes. If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose health information in response to a court or administrative order. We also may disclose health information 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 to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Law Enforcement. We may release health information if asked by a law enforcement officer if the information is: (1) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons, or similar process; (2) limited information to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness, or missing person; (3) about the victim of a crime, even if under certain very limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; (4) about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; (5) about criminal conduct on our premises; and (6) in an emergency 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 release health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death. We also may release health information to funeral directors as necessary for their duties.

National Security and Intelligence Activities. We may release health information to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services for the President and Others. We may disclose health information to authorized federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons, or foreign heads of state, or to conduct special investigations.

Inmates or Individuals in Custody. If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release health information to the correctional institution or law enforcement official. This release would be if necessary: (1) for the institution to provide you with healthcare; (2) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (3) the safety and security of the correctional institution.

Highly Confidential Information. Certain types of medical information have additional protection under state and federal law. For example, medical information about HIV/AIDS status, mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse treatment information has more protection in Maine. For those types of information, we are required to get your written authorization before disclosing that information.

Individuals Involved in Your Care or Payment for Your Care. Unless you object, we may disclose to a member of your family, a relative, a close friend, or any other person you identify, your protected health information that directly relates to that person's involvement in your healthcare. If you are unable to agree or object to such a disclosure, we may disclose such information as necessary if we determine that it is in your best interest based on our professional judgment.

Disaster Relief. We may disclose your protected health information to disaster relief organizations that seek your protected health information to coordinate your care, or notify family and friends of your location or condition in a disaster. We will provide you with an opportunity to agree or object to such a disclosure whenever we practically can do so.

HealthInfoNet. Mid Coast–Parkview Health participates in a state-wide health information exchange called HealthInfoNet. This means that certain elements of your health information, maintained electronically, may be shared with other doctors and hospitals that care for you. For example, if you are in an accident and were unable to speak, the treating providers could have access to your list of allergies and medical conditions. Specifically protected information including substance abuse treatment records, mental health treatment records, HIV/AIDS information, and genetic test results are not included. You may opt out of HealthInfoNet by filling out

a form found online at www.hinfonet.org/choice.html, or by calling 866-592-4352. You may rejoin the program at any time.

Your Written Authorization is Required for Other Uses and Disclosures

Other uses and disclosures of protected health information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization. If you do give us a authorization, you may revoke it at any time by submitting a written revocation. But, disclosure that we made in reliance on your authorization before you revoked it will not be affected by the revocation.

Your Rights

You have the following rights regarding health information:

Right to Inspect and Copy. You have a right to inspect and copy health information that may be used to make decisions about your care or payment for your care. This includes medical and billing records, other than psychotherapy notes. To inspect and copy this health information, you must make your request, in writing, to the Health Information Management Department, 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G600, Brunswick, Maine, 04011. We have up to 30 days to make your protected health information available to you and we may charge you a reasonable fee for the costs of copying, mailing, or other supplies associated with your request. We may not charge you a fee if you need the information for a claim for benefits under the Social Security Act or any other state or federal needs-based benefit program. We may deny your request in certain limited circumstances. If we do deny your request, you have the right to have the denial reviewed by a licensed healthcare professional who was not directly involved in the denial of your request, and we will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to an Electronic Copy of Electronic Medical Records. If your protected health information is maintained in an electronic format (known as an electronic medical record or an electronic health record), you have the right to request that an electronic copy of your record be given to you or transmitted to another individual or entity. We will make every effort to provide access to your protected health information in the form or format you request, if it is readily producible in such form or format. If the protected health information is not readily producible in the form or format you request, your record will be provided in either our standard electronic format or, if you do not want this form or format, a readable hard copy form. We may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for the labor associated with transmitting the electronic medical record.

Right to Get Notice of a Breach. You have the right to be notified upon a breach of any of your unsecured protected health information.

Right to Amend. If you feel that health information we have is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for our office. To request an amendment, you must make your request, in writing, to the Health Information Management Department, 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G600, Brunswick, Maine, 04011.

Right to an Accounting of Disclosures. You have the right to request a list of certain disclosures we made of health information for purposes other than treatment, payment, and healthcare operations, or for which you provided written authorization. To request an accounting of disclosures, you must make your request, in writing, to the Health Information Management Department, 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G600, Brunswick, Maine, 04011.

Right to Request Restrictions. You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information we use or disclose for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the health information we disclose to someone involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend. For example, you could ask that we not share information about a particular diagnosis or treatment with your spouse. To request a restriction, you must make your request, in writing, to the Health Information Management Department, 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G600, Brunswick, Maine, 04011. We are not required to agree to your request unless you are asking us to restrict the use and disclosure of your protected health information to a health plan for payment or healthcare operation purposes and such information you wish to restrict pertains solely to a healthcare item or service for which you have paid us out-of-pocket in full. If we agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment.

Out-of-Pocket Payments. If you paid out-of-pocket (or in other words, you have requested that we not bill your health plan) in full for a specific item or service, you have the right to ask that your protected health information with respect to that item or service not be disclosed to a health plan for purposes of payment or healthcare operations, and we will honor that request.

Right to Request Confidential Communications. You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location. For example, you can ask that we only contact you by mail or at work. To request confidential communications, you must make your request, in writing,

to the Health Information Management Department at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G600, Brunswick, Me, 04011. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted. We will accommodate reasonable requests.

Right to a Paper Copy of This Notice. You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice. You may obtain a copy of this notice at, www.midcoasthealth.com. Paper copies of this notice are located at all reception areas and waiting rooms at Mid Coast–Parkview Health.

Changes to This Notice

We reserve the right to change this notice and make the new notice apply to health information we already have as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of our current notice at our offices. The notice contains the effective date on the first page.

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with:

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Phone: (800) 791-4080 or TTY: Maine Relay 7-1-1

To file a complaint with Mid Coast–Parkview Health
Phone (207) 373-6377

Write to: Senior Director, Quality and Patient Safety
Mid Coast Hospital
121 Medical Center Drive, Suite G300
Brunswick, Maine, 04011

Please be assured that filing a complaint will not impact the care and services provided to you. There will be no repercussion, penalty, or any form of punishment or prejudice.

Our Community. Our Health.



MID COAST–PARKVIEW HEALTH

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