

HIPAA Privacy Policy

HIPAA PRIVACY POLICY

Handling of Protected Health Information (PHI): BridgeCare complies with HIPAA rules in storing and sharing PHI, including electronic transactions. Patient data, such as diagnoses, treatments, and prescriptions, are managed in accordance with HIPAA Privacy Rule requirements (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164).

Rights Regarding Protected Health Information (PHI): 1. Disclosure Control: Patients have control over disclosures to third parties, subject to certain exceptions. 2. Restriction Requests: Patients may request limits on PHI use, though BridgeCare is not obligated to agree. 3. Communication Preferences: Patients can specify preferred contact methods and information receipt modes. 4. Access and Amendment: Patients have the right to access and request corrections to their PHI. 5. Disclosure Accounting: Patients can request a record of non-treatment, payment, or operations-related PHI disclosures. 6. Copy of Privacy Notice: Patients are entitled to a paper or electronic copy of this notice. 7. Patient Rights Overview: Patients have rights to access, amend, and manage their medical information use and sharing, and to file complaints if rights are violated. 8. Your Choices in Information Sharing: Patients can specify information sharing preferences in various situations, including emergencies. 9. Standard Uses and Disclosures: Explains typical uses and disclosures of health information for treatment, operations, billing, public health, and legal compliance. 10. Photo Consent for Electronic Medical Records: By consenting, patients authorize BridgeCare to store their photographs in electronic medical records for identification and insurance purposes. 11. Patient Portal Authorization: In line with HIPAA's Security Rule (45 CFR Part 160 and Subparts A and C of Part 164), health information is accessible through a secure online patient portal. 12. Legal Reporting Obligations: BridgeCare may disclose certain health information to public health authorities or as required by law (45 CFR 164.512). 13. Access for Continuity of Care and Research: Under HIPAA guidelines, PHI may be accessed by providers for care coordination or research, with appropriate safeguards (45 CFR 164.506). 14. Notice of Privacy Practices Acknowledgment: Patients acknowledge understanding the Notice of Privacy Practices, outlining rights and obligations regarding PHI (45 CFR 164.520). 15. Consent to Treatment Compliance: By consenting, patients agree to treatment policies, essential for continuous care and in alignment with HIPAA. 16. Patient Portal Consent: Patients agree to have health information sent to a secure online portal for viewing and management.

Notice of Privacy Practices - This notice describes how health information may be used and disclosed and how patients can access this information. Please review it carefully.

I. Pledge Regarding Health Information: Understanding that health information is personal, BridgeCare is committed to protecting it. A record of care and services is created to provide quality care and comply with legal requirements. This notice applies to all care records generated by BridgeCare. It details the ways health information may be used and disclosed, outlining patient rights and BridgeCare's obligations. BridgeCare is required by law to keep PHI private, provide this notice, and follow its current terms.

II. Uses and Disclosures of Health Information: BridgeCare describes the different ways PHI can be used and disclosed, which may be for treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. Examples include consultations with other healthcare providers for diagnosis and treatment. Disclosures for treatment are not limited to the minimum necessary standard. The term treatment encompasses coordination and management of health care, consultations, and referrals.

III. Authorizations Required for Certain Uses and Disclosures: 1. Psychotherapy Notes: Use or disclosure of psychotherapy notes requires patient authorization, except for certain specific circumstances like treatment, legal defense, or as required by law. 2. Marketing Purposes: PHI will not be used or disclosed for marketing purposes. 3. Sale of PHI: PHI will not be sold in the regular course of business.

IV. Uses and Disclosures Not Requiring Authorization: Under certain legal limitations, PHI can be used and disclosed without patient authorization for reasons such as compliance with laws, public health activities, health oversight activities, judicial and administrative proceedings, law enforcement purposes, coroners or medical examiners, research, government functions, workers' compensation, appointment reminders, and health-related benefits.

V. Uses and Disclosures Requiring Patient Opportunity to Object: Disclosures to family, friends, or others involved in a patient's care or payment for health care are permitted unless the patient objects.

VI. Patient Rights Regarding PHI: 1. Request Limits on Uses and Disclosures: Patients can request restrictions on PHI use, although BridgeCare is not required to agree. 2. Restrictions for Out-of-Pocket Expenses: Patients can request restrictions on PHI disclosures to health plans for items or services paid out-of-pocket in full. 3. Choose Communication Methods: Patients can request contact through specific means or at alternative addresses. 4. Access and Copies of PHI: Patients have the right to view and obtain copies of their PHI, excluding psychotherapy notes, within 30 days of a request. 5. List of Disclosures: Patients can request a list of PHI disclosures not related to treatment, payment, or operations, or for which there was no authorization. 6. Correct or Update PHI: Patients can request corrections or additions to their PHI. 7. Receive a Copy of This Notice: Patients have the right to a paper or electronic copy of this notice.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Privacy Notice: Under HIPAA, patients have certain rights regarding the use and disclosure of their PHI. By acknowledging receipt of the HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices, patients confirm they have been provided a copy of the notice.