

Eyes of Texas Vision Care

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA)

Your Information Your Rights Your Responsibilities

Notice of Privacy Practices

In compliance with the federal regulations of HIPPA's privacy rule, this notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can obtain access to it.

Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

DEAR PATIENT,

Thank you for choosing EOTVC to provide your eye health care and vision needs. In compliance with HIPPA, we would like to make you aware of your rights and our uses and disclosures as it pertains to your Personal Health Information.

YOUR CHOICE

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, 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.

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 record

We will provide a copy of your health information, usually within 15 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct your medical record

You can ask us to correct medical information that you think is incorrect or incomplete.

We may say "no" to your request, but we'll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

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.

Ask us to limit 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 healthcare item in full, out-of-pocket, you can ask us not to share that information with your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.

Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time. It is also available on our website.

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.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated.

Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or grievances. You may contact EOTVC Privacy Officer at 8001 Burnet Road Austin, TX 78757; Phone: 512-454-5117; Fax: 512-450-1496

You can file a complaint with the Region VI, Office for Civil Rights, and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at 1301 Young Street, Suite 1169, Dallas, TX 75202

We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

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 share 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).

OUR USES & DISCLOSURES

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways:

Treat you

We can use your health information and share it with other professionals who are treating you.

Run our organization

We can use and share your health information to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

Bill for your services

We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

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

- 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

Do research

We can use or share your anonymized information for health research

Comply with the law, address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests

- We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including compliance with the Department of Health and Human Services
- 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 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.

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.

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 upon request.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. You may change your mind at any time by notifying us in writing.

For more information see:

www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hippa/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.