



## Notice of Privacy Practices

EFFECTIVE 08/13/19

**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, AS WELL AS HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

### Who Will Follow This Notice?

The Notice applies to all of ExperCARE's locations and all personnel at those locations. We will follow the terms of this Notice and may share health information with each other for purposes of treatment, payment, and health-care operations as described in this Notice. The information privacy practices in this Notice will be followed by:

All health care professionals who treat you at any of our locations.

All of our employees, volunteers and Medical Staff members.

All business associates with whom we share health information.

### Where This Notice Applies

This Notice applies at the following locations:

ExperCARE - Richmond Hill, GA

ExperCARE - Savannah, GA

### Our Pledge to You

We understand that health information about you is personal, and we are committed to protecting your health information. We create a record of the care and services you receive from ExperCARE to provide you with quality care, to receive payment for the care we provide, and to comply with legal requirements. This Notice applies to all of the records of your care that we maintain, whether created by ExperCARE staff or your personal health care provider. Your personal health care provider may have different policies and notices regarding the use and disclosure of your health information that is created in that health care provider's office. We are required by law to:

Keep health information about you private;

Give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information about you; and

Follow the terms of the Notice that is currently in effect.

### Changes to This Notice

We may change this Notice at any time. Changes will apply to health information we already hold, as well as new information, after the change occurs. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this Notice and post the new Notice in the front entrances of our locations and on our Web site ([www.ExperCareHealth.com](http://www.ExperCareHealth.com))

### How We May Use and Disclose Your Health Information without Your Written Authorization

The following categories describe different ways that we may use and disclosure your health information. We have provided an example for each category but have not listed every kind of use or disclosure within the category. We will ask for your written authorization for certain other categories of uses and disclosures of your health information, which are described below under the section entitled, "Other Uses and Disclosures of Health Information."

**For treatment**, such as disclosing your health information to your providers, doctors, nurses and others involved in your health care to provide and manage your care. We also may contact you for appointment reminders, or to tell you about or recommend possible treatment options, alternatives, health-related benefits or services that may be of interest to you.

**For payment**, such as creating bills and collecting payment for health care we provide to you.

**For health care operations**, such as administration, management, business planning and other operations of ExperCARE.

**To legal representatives**, such as to your parents if you are younger than 18 years old.

**To persons involved in your care or payment for your care**, such as to a family member or friend identified by you, if the disclosure is related to the person's involvement in your care or payment. In these situations, we will give you a chance to object to the disclosure unless you are unconscious or otherwise unable to object and we believe the disclosure is in your best interests.

**As required by law**, such as where we must disclose information to comply with a federal, state or local law.

**For public health purposes**, such as to the government to report a birth or death or suspected abuse or neglect.

**For health oversight activities**, such as to government or private agencies as part of an audit or inspection by a government agency which issues our license.

**For organ and tissue donation**, such as where a patient has died or is near death and may be a candidate for organ donation.

**For disaster relief**, such as to an organization helping with disaster relief so that your family can be told about your condition, status and location.

**For worker's compensation purposes**, such as to comply with the Georgia worker's compensation law or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

**For lawsuits and disputes**, such as in response to a valid court order or subpoena.

**For law enforcement**, such as to respond to a law enforcement official's request to help locate a suspect or witness or to alert law enforcement to a death that may be the result of a crime.

**To avert a serious threat to health or safety**, such as in order to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the health and safety of you, the public or another person.

**To correctional institutions**, such as to a correctional institution at which you are an inmate in order to protect your health and safety or that of others.

**For military and veteran activities**, such as disclosing health information about a member or veteran of the armed forces to appropriate military authorities.

**For national security and intelligence activities**, such as to federal officials for intelligence and other national security activities authorized by law.

**For protective services for the President and other officials**, such as to authorized federal officials for the purpose of protecting the President or foreign heads of state.

**For disclosures about a person who has died or is near death**, such as to a funeral director for funeral arrangements or to a coroner or medical examiner to identify a person who has died.

## **Other Uses and Disclosures of Health Information**

For any category of use or disclosure that is not described above or required by law, we must obtain your written authorization. If you give us your written authorization, you may revoke (cancel) it at any time by submitting a written revocation to our Privacy Officer at the address below or to the department, office or other location that originally received your authorization. Your revocation will be effective except to the extent that we have already acted upon it. We will obtain your written authorization for the following types of uses and disclosures:

**Highly Sensitive Information.** Federal and state law may require us to obtain your written authorization to disclose highly sensitive health information under certain circumstances. Highly sensitive health information includes health information that is: (1) in a therapist's psychotherapy notes; (2) about mental illness or developmental disabilities; (3) in alcohol and drug abuse treatment program records; (4) in HIV/AIDS test results; (5) about genetic testing; or (6) about sexual assaults. Sometimes the law even requires us to obtain a minor patient's authorization to disclose this highly sensitive information to a parent or guardian.

**Marketing.** We will obtain your written authorization before using health information about you to send you any marketing materials. However, we may provide you with marketing materials in a face-to-face encounter or give you a promotional gift of minimal value without your authorization. We may also communicate with you about products or services relating to your treatment, care settings or alternative therapies without your written authorization.

**Sale.** We do not sell our patients' health information. However, if we ever were to do so in the future, we could only do so if we obtained your written authorization acknowledging that we would receive payment for disclosing your information.

## Your Rights Concerning Your Health Information

You have the following rights concerning your health information. Please submit any requests in writing to the Privacy Officer at the following location.

### **ExperCARE**

60 Exchange Street

Suite B-7

Richmond Hill, GA 31324

Attention: Privacy Officer

PH 912-756-CARE (2273)

**Reviewing or Obtaining a Copy of Records.** In most cases, you may look at or get a copy of treatment or billing records. If you request copies, we may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for the cost of copying and delivering them. If we deny your request, you may submit a written request for a review of that decision.

**Amendments.** If you believe that information in a treatment or billing record is incorrect, you may request that we amend the record, by submitting a written request that states your reason for requesting the amendment. We may deny your request to amend a record if the information was not created by us, if it is not part of the health information maintained by us, or if we determine that the record is accurate. You may appeal, in writing, a decision by us not to amend a record.

**Accounting.** You may request a list called an “accounting” of certain disclosures of health information about you, other than common disclosures (such as for treatment, payment, health care operations or where authorized by you). This list may be obtained by submitting a written request, specifying the time period desired for the list, which must be no more than a 6-year period. You may receive the list in paper or electronic form. The first list request in a 12-month period is free; you will be charged for additional requests during that period according to our cost of producing the list. We will inform you of the cost and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request before you incur any costs.

**Confidential Communications.** You may request that health information about you be communicated to you in a certain way or at a certain place, such as at work or by mail. We will agree to reasonable requests, but, if the request may result in our not being paid for your care, then we may require you to provide additional information about how payment will be handled.

**Restrictions on Disclosures.** You may request in writing that we limit how we use or disclose your health information for treatment, collecting payment, or health care operations or to persons involved in your care. We will consider your request but in most cases are not required to accept it. If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you with emergency treatment. However, if you pay for a health care item or service out of pocket and in full, you can ask us not to share that information with your health insurer for the purpose of payment or our health care operations, and we will agree to your request unless another law requires us to share that information with your insurer.

**Copy of This Notice.** You may get a paper copy of the current version of this Notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically. To do so you may contact the Privacy Office at the address or phone number below. A current copy of this Notice is also available on our Web site at [www.theucconline.com](http://www.theucconline.com).

### **Investigations of Breaches**

We will investigate any unauthorized use or disclosure of your health information we discover to determine if it constitutes a breach of the federal privacy or security regulations. If we determine breach has occurred, we will notify you of the breach and advise you how we intend to do minimize the damage (if any) caused by the breach.

### **Complaints**

If you are concerned that your privacy rights may have been violated, or if you disagree with a decision we have made about your health information, you may write to or call our Privacy Officer at 912-756-2273. You may also file a written complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Office for Civil Rights. We honor your right to make a complaint and will not take any action against you for filing a complaint. Our Privacy Officer can provide you the address of the Office for Civil Rights.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact our Privacy Officer:

### **ExperCARE**

60 Exchange Street, Suite B-7, Richmond Hill, GA 31324, Attention: Privacy Officer

PH 912-756-CARE (2273)