

# Waverly Heights Notice of Privacy Practices

## **Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.**

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 of this Notice: 10/01/2016. Revised 10/09/23.**

We are committed to preserving the privacy and confidentiality of your personal health information. During your residency at Waverly Heights, we will create, receive, or maintain records that contain personal health information about you. Personal health information is information about you, including information about where you live, that can reasonably be used to identify you and that relates to your past, present, or future physical or mental condition, the provision of health care to you or the payment for that care.

Waverly Heights is required by certain state and federal regulations to safeguard the privacy of your personal health information. We are also required by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (or “HIPAA”) Privacy Rule to give you this Notice. This Notice informs you about the possible uses and disclosures of your personal health information and describes your rights and our obligations regarding your personal health information. This Notice applies to all information and records related to your care that Waverly Heights has received or created.

### **Your Rights                      You have the right to:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get a copy of this privacy notice</li> <li>• Choose someone to act for you</li> <li>• Request confidential communication</li> <li>• Ask us to limit the information we share</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared your information</li> <li>• Correct your paper or electronic medical record</li> <li>• Get a copy of your paper or electronic medical record</li> <li>• File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated</li> </ul>
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### **Your Choices                      You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide disaster relief</li> <li>• Include you in a Community directory</li> <li>• Provide mental health care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tell family and friends about your condition</li> <li>• Market our services and sell your information</li> <li>• Raise funds</li> </ul>
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### **Our Uses and Disclosures                      We may use and share your information as we:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treat you</li> <li>• Run our organization</li> <li>• Bill for your services</li> <li>• Comply with the law</li> <li>• Do research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with public health and safety issues</li> <li>• Respond to organ and tissue donation requests</li> <li>• Work with a medical examiner or funeral director</li> <li>• Address workers’ compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests</li> <li>• Respond to lawsuits and legal actions</li> </ul>

# Waverly Heights

## Notice of Privacy Practices

### 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 medical record

- You can ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, within 2 working days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee for providing this information.

#### Ask us to correct your medical record

- You can ask us to correct health information about you that you think is incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- 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 mobile 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 this type of request, and we may say “no” if it would affect your care.
- If you pay for a service or health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information for the purpose of payment or our operations with your health insurer. We will say “yes” unless a law requires us to share that information.

#### 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 shared 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). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within any 12-month period.

#### Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

#### 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.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

#### File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting The Waverly Heights Privacy Officer listed on page 5.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/).
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

# Waverly Heights

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### Your Choices

**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 the choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in your care
- Share information in a disaster relief situation
- Include your information in a Community 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.*

We never share your information unless you give us written permission in the following cases:

- Marketing purposes
- Sale of your information
- Most sharing of psychotherapy notes

In the case of fundraising:

- We may contact you for fundraising efforts, but you can tell us not to contact you again.

### Our Uses and Disclosures

#### How do we typically use or share your health information?

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

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

*Example: A doctor treating you for an injury asks another doctor about your overall health condition.*

**To operate our organization** - We can use and share your health information to operate our community, improve your care, and contact you when necessary.

*Example: We use health information about you to manage your treatment and services.*

**To bill for your services** - We can use and share your health information to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities.

*Example: We give information about you to your health insurance plan so it will pay for the services you received.*

#### How else can we use or share your health information?

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 on these uses see:

[www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html).

**Help with public health and safety issues** - We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

- 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

# Waverly Heights

## Notice of Privacy Practices

### **Do research**

We can use or share your information for health research.

### **Comply with the law**

We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

### **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.

### **Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests**

We can use or share health information about you:

- 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 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.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described here unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/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 web site.

If you have any questions or concerns with about our privacy practices contact:

**Privacy Officer & Senior Vice President of Health Care Services**  
**Waverly Heights**  
**1400 Waverly Road, Gladwyne PA 19035**  
**610-645-8744**  
**Privacy.Officer@waverlyheights.org**