

Notice of Privacy Practices Behavioral Health Addendum

Your Information. Your rights. Our Responsibilities.

This notice describes how behavioral health information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. **This addendum notice is part of the Notice of Privacy Practices that applies to your other health information. Please review this addendum carefully.**

Confidentiality of Behavioral Health Records (Includes Mental Health and Substance Use records)

The confidentiality of your behavioral health records maintained by Coal Country Community Health Center receives special protection under federal and state laws. We may, however, disclose behavioral health information that identifies you without your authorization in the following circumstances:

Disclosure at your request

- ◆ We may disclose health information when requested by you. This may require you to submit a written authorization.

For Treatment

- ◆ We may use your behavioral health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose your information to health care professionals outside this facility only if they are responsible for your physical or mental health.

For Payment

- ◆ We may use or disclose your behavioral health information to substantiate or collect on a claim for treatment or services you receive at CCCHC.

For Health Care Operations

- ◆ We may use or disclose your behavioral health information for our health care operations activities. These uses and disclosures are necessary to operate CCCHC efficiently and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care.

Generally, we will not tell anyone outside CCCHC that you are being treated by CCCHC for a behavioral health issue.

Other uses and disclosures of your behavioral health information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written authorization.

Please see the general Notice of Privacy Practices for information on revoking an Authorization for the Use or Disclosure of Health Information. Your rights regarding your health information outlined in the general Notice of Privacy Practices also apply to your behavioral health information.

Additional Uses and Disclosure of Behavioral Health Information

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

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

Do Research

- ◆ We may disclose your behavioral health information to researchers who request it for approved medical research projects; however, such disclosures must be cleared through a special approval process before any information is disclosed to the researchers who will be required to safeguard the information they receive.

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.

For Legal Proceedings and Disputes

- ◆ If you're involved in a judicial or administrative legal proceeding (lawsuit or dispute), we may disclose behavioral health information about you in response to a court or administrative order or when such disclosure is otherwise required or permitted by law. We may also disclose behavioral 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, either verbally or in writing, or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety

- ◆ We may use and disclose behavioral health information when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or that of the public or another person. Any such disclosure, however, would only be to the extent required or permitted by federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

To Law Enforcement

- ◆ We may disclose your behavioral health information to law enforcement personnel in limited and specific circumstances, such as probability of imminent injury or if a crime has been committed.

To Government Agencies

- ◆ We may disclose your behavioral health information to notify the appropriate government agency when required or authorized by law, such as in the case of abuse or neglect.

To Healthcare Oversight Agencies

- ◆ We may disclose your behavioral health information to healthcare oversight agencies when required or authorized by law to ensure that we are meeting the standards of care and services and that we are complying with the applicable laws and regulations.

Special Categories of Health Information

In some circumstances, your health information may be subject to additional restrictions that may limit or preclude some uses or disclosures described in this Notice.

For example, (1) AIDS treatment information and HIV test results; (2) treatment for mental health conditions and psychotherapy notes; (3) alcohol, drug abuse, and chemical dependency treatment information; and/or (4) genetic information, are all subject to special restrictions. In addition, Government health benefit programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid, may also limit the disclosure of patient information for purposes unrelated to the program.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Notice

I acknowledge that I received a copy of Coal Country Community Health Center Notice of Privacy Practices Behavioral Health Addendum.

Signature _____

Date _____

Effective Date

This Notice of Privacy Practices Behavioral Health Addendum is effective April 1, 2019.