

Ballinger Memorial Hospital District

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) the updated HIPAA Privacy Rule changes aligning with 42 CFR Part 2 (substance use disorder records)

NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Effective Date: February 4th, 2026

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.

Our Duties Regarding Your Health Information

We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information (PHI)
- Provide you with this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices
- Follow the terms of this Notice currently in effect
- Notify you if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information

Protected health information includes medical records, billing records, and other information used to identify you and relate to your health or healthcare services.

Some of your information may include **records related to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment**, which are subject to additional protections under federal law (42 CFR Part 2).

How We May Use and Disclose Your Health Information

A. Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations

We may use and disclose your health information, **including Part 2–protected records**, for:

- **Treatment:** Coordinating care among healthcare providers
- **Payment:** Billing and payment activities
- **Health Care Operations:** Quality assessment, licensing, training, and business operations

Under federal law, a **single written consent** may authorize these uses and disclosures.

Uses and Disclosures Without Your Authorization

We may disclose your information without your written authorization in certain situations, including:

- As required by law
- To prevent a serious and imminent threat to health or safety
- For public health activities
- For health oversight activities
- For law enforcement purposes (as permitted by law)
- For research (with required safeguards)

Part 2 records are NOT used or disclosed for civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against you without your specific authorization or a court order.

Uses and Disclosures With Your Written Authorization

Other uses and disclosures of your health information, including certain disclosures of Part 2 records, will be made **only with your written authorization**. You may revoke your authorization at any time in writing, except to the extent that action has already been taken.

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

You have the right to:

• Access and Copies

Request to inspect or obtain a copy of your health records, including Part 2 records, subject to limited exceptions.

• Amend

Request corrections to your health information if you believe it is incorrect or incomplete.

• Accounting of Disclosures

Receive a list of certain disclosures made of your health information.

• Request Restrictions

Ask us to limit how we use or disclose your information. We are not required to agree, but we will comply if required by law.

- **Confidential Communications**

Request communications in a specific way or at a specific location.

- **Receive a Paper Copy**

Request a paper copy of this Notice at any time, even if you agreed to receive it electronically.

Special Protections for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Records

Federal law provides additional protections for records related to substance use disorder treatment.

- These records **cannot be used to investigate or prosecute you** without your consent or a court order
- Redisclosure is limited and must be consistent with your consent
- You may file a complaint if you believe your Part 2 rights have been violated

Our Responsibilities Related to Part 2 Records

We will:

- Obtain consent before using or disclosing Part 2 records, unless otherwise permitted by law
- Apply HIPAA privacy protections to Part 2 records once disclosed under consent
- Ensure redisclosures comply with federal law

Changes to This Notice

We reserve the right to change this Notice and make the revised Notice effective for information we already have about you, as well as any information we receive in the future. The updated Notice will be available:

- At our offices
- On our website: [Insert URL]

Complaints

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with:

Twanna Wiloth, RHIT

Phone: 325-365-4882

Email: twannaw@bmhd.org

You may also file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this Notice or your privacy rights, contact:

Ballinger Memorial Hospital District

Privacy Officer: Twanna Wiloth, RHIT

Address: 608 Avenue B, Ballinger, TX 76821

Phone: 325-365-4882

Email: twannaw@bmhd.org