



This notice describes:

- HOW HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED
- YOUR RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION
- HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT CONCERNING A VIOLATION OF THE PRIVACY OR SECURITY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION, OR OF YOUR RIGHTS CONCERNING YOUR INFORMATION

PLEASE REVIEW THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO A COPY OF THIS NOTICE (IN PAPER OR ELECTRONIC FORM) AND TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE PRIVACY OFFICER AT 903-535-9041 or [COMPLIANCE@TXFCC.ORG](mailto:COMPLIANCE@TXFCC.ORG) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

This notice applies to FAMILY CIRCLE OF CARE (referred to in this notice as “FCC,” “Health Center,” “we” and “us”) and our workforce members (employees, contractors, volunteers, etc.) and to the health information we create and maintain about you.

We provide programs that are considered Part 2 Programs – Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and other substance use services. When this notice refers to “health information” in connection with our Part 2 Program(s), it means your substance use disorder patient record, which receives additional protections under federal law.

### **Laws that Protect Your Health Information**

Federal and state laws protect the health information that we create and maintain about you. For example:

- **Health Center Record:** Your Health Center Record includes information regarding your care and services you receive. Your Health Center Record is protected by HIPAA. This may include your health history, visit notes, diagnoses, medications, allergies, immunizations, test results, treatment plans, referrals, billing information, and consent forms used to make decisions about your care.
- **Part 2 Record:** If you receive services from our Part 2 Program(s) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), substance use disorder records that we create and maintain related to the Part 2 Program(s) are provided extra privacy protections under 42 CFR Part 2 (Part 2).
- Federal and state laws require special privacy protections for certain highly confidential information about you (“Highly Confidential Information”), including any portion of your PHI that is: (1) kept in psychotherapy notes; (2) about alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and referral; and (3) about HIV/AIDS testing, diagnosis or treatment. This information is not disclosed without your authorization except under limited circumstances.
- Texas law allows minors to consent to certain services—such as STI testing and treatment, pregnancy-related care, substance use treatment, some outpatient mental health counseling, and emergency care—without a parent or guardian. When a minor legally consents to their own care, the minor generally controls the privacy of the related health information, and disclosure to parents or guardians may be limited unless authorized or otherwise permitted or required by law. For services that require parental consent, parents or legal guardians typically have the right to access the minor’s health information. Please contact our Privacy Officer with any questions.

### **Your Rights**

**When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights.** This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities.

#### **Get an electronic or paper copy of your medical record**

- The fastest way to get an electronic copy of the information in your Health Center Record is by logging into MyChart. The following information from your Health Center Record is available through the portal: visit summaries, medications, immunizations, test results, appointments, and secure messages with your care team. Some information may be limited or unavailable, including psychotherapy notes; substance use disorder treatment records protected by federal law (42 CFR Part 2); information restricted for safety reasons; and certain services for which minors may consent to care under Texas law. Additional authorization or alternative access procedures may be required in these situations.

## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

- You can also ask to see or get an electronic or paper copy of your Health Center Record by completing an Authorization to Release Protected Health Information at any clinic. We will provide a copy or a summary of your health information, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.
- State and federal law may limit when we can share certain health information of a minor with a parent or legal guardian. To support these privacy protections, our patient portal automatically restricts parental or guardian access to a minor's health information beginning at age 14. Access may still be provided when permitted or required by law, including for services that require parental consent or for which the minor is authorized. Please contact our Privacy Officer with any questions about access to a minor's health information.

### Ask us to correct your Health Center Record

- You can ask us to correct information about you in your Health Center Record 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 communication

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way, for example, by cell 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, including Part 2 Records shared with your written consent for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care 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 health care item out-of-pocket in full, you can ask us not to share that information, including health information in Part 2 Records, 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, who we shared it with and why. For Health Center Records, you may request 7 years of disclosures. For Part 2 Records, you may request 3 years of disclosures.
- 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 12 months.
- For HIPAA Health Center Records, you may request 7 years of disclosures.
- For Part 2 Records, you may request 3 years of disclosures.

### 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 Center Record, including your Part 2 Record.
- 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

- If you feel we have violated your rights or if you have questions, please contact our Privacy Officer at 903-535-9041. We take the privacy of your health information seriously and will respond to your concerns and questions as quickly as possible.
- You can also 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.

### Your Choices

**For certain health information, you can tell us how we should share it.** If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.



## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

In these cases, you have both the right and 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
- To prevent multiple enrollments in withdrawal management or maintenance treatment programs
- To report participation in treatment required by the criminal justice system
- To report prescribed substance use disorder treatment medications to a state prescription drug monitoring program when required by law

In these cases, we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes

### Our Uses and Disclosures

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

We can use or share information in your Health Center Record without your consent or authorization as described in this section. In general, using or sharing Part 2 Records requires written consent as described in this section, unless one of the exceptions described in this section applies.

**Treatment:** We can use information in your Health Center Record to provide you with care and we can share it with other professionals who are treating you. For example, a Health Center provider may share your prescription history with the hospital where you are having surgery. A Health Center provider may also disclose information about prescribing or dispensing controlled substances to a prescription drug monitoring program as part of your treatment.

For any Part 2 Records:

- You must sign a consent form allowing us to share Part 2 Records, unless an exception applies. For example, if your prescription history includes medications prescribed or dispensed by our Part 2 Programs, you must sign a consent form to allow us to share your prescription history with the hospital where you are having surgery or with a prescription drug monitoring program, if required by state law.
- You may sign a single consent form for all future uses and disclosures of your Part 2 Records for treatment, payment, and health care operations purposes.
- In a bona fide medical emergency, we may share Part 2 Records if: (1) we cannot obtain your consent or (2) if a state or federal authority declares a temporary state of emergency because of a natural or major disaster and our Part 2 Programs are closed and unable to provide services or obtain your consent.

**Payment:** We can use and share information in your Health Center Record to bill and get payment from health plans or other entities. For example, we can send a bill to your health insurance company that includes your diagnosis, procedures performed, and supplies used

For any Part 2 Records, you must sign a consent form allowing us to share your Part 2 Records for payment purposes, unless an exception applies. You may sign a single consent form for all future uses and disclosures of your Part 2 Records for payment purposes.

**Health Care Operations:** We can use and share information from your Health Center record to run our practice, improve your care, and contact you when necessary. For example, we may send you appointment reminders and our clinical team may review the care you received and compare outcomes in your case with similar cases.

For any Part 2 Records, you must sign a consent form allowing us to share your Part 2 Records for operations purposes, unless an exception applies. You may sign a single consent form for all future uses and disclosures of your Part 2 Records for health care operations purposes.

#### Single Consent to Use and Disclose Part 2 Records

- If you sign a single consent form allowing us to use and share your Part 2 Records for all future treatment, payment and health care operations purposes, the recipient may further disclose your Part 2 Records consistent with the consent.

- If you sign a consent form allowing us to disclose your Part 2 Records for treatment, payment, and health care operations to a covered entity (such as another health care provider) or their business associate (such as a vendor), the recipient may share your Part 2 Records as permitted by HIPAA, except for uses or sharing for civil, criminal, administrative, and legislative proceedings against you.

**Substance Use Disorder Records We Receive from Other Organizations:** If we receive substance use disorder treatment records from a program subject to 42 CFR Part 2 and are notified the records are protected by Part 2, we shall not use or disclose such records in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against the individual unless based on written consent, or a court order after notice and an opportunity to be heard is provided to the individual or the holder of the record, as provided in 42 CFR part 2. A court order authorizing use or disclosure must be accompanied by a subpoena or other legal requirement compelling disclosure before we will use or disclose the requested record.

### 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 must meet many legal conditions before we can share your information for these purposes.

**Public health and safety issues:** We can share information from your Health Center Record in 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.

For any Part 2 Records: Using or sharing Part 2 Records for the purposes listed above requires written consent, except:

- For public health purposes, we can disclose Part 2 Records without your consent if: (1) the disclosure is made to a public health authority and (2) information from the Part 2 Record has been de-identified.
- If medical personnel of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) assert a reason to believe that the health of an individual may be threatened by an error in the manufacture, labeling, or sale of a product under FDA jurisdiction, we may disclose Part 2 Records for the exclusive purpose of notifying patients or their physicians.
- We can report suspected child abuse and neglect to appropriate state or local authorities, as required by law.
- We can share certain information from your Part 2 Records with law enforcement if a crime is committed or threatened on the premise of our Part 2 Program(s) or against Part 2 Program staff members.

**Research:** We can use or share information from your Health Center Record, including any Part 2 Records, for health research.

**Comply with the Law:** We will share information from your Health Center Record if state or federal laws require it. We will share information from your Health Center Record, including your Part 2 Record, with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

**Organ Procurement Organizations:** We can share health information from your Health Center Record with organ procurement organizations. For any Part 2 Records, written consent is required.

**Medical examiners or funeral directors:** We can share information from your Health Center Record with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

For any Part 2 Records, we can share information from Part 2 Records relating to the cause of death if the law requires reporting on cause of death, or vital statistics, or permits inquiry into cause of death. Other uses or disclosures of any Part 2 Records require written consent.

**Workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests:** We can use or share information from your Health Center record:

- 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



## NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

For any Part 2 Records: Using or sharing Part 2 Records for the above purposes require written consent, except:

- We can share certain information from your Part 2 Records with law enforcement if a crime is committed or threatened on the premise of our Part 2 Programs or against Part 2 Program staff members.
- We can share Part 2 Records for audits or evaluations on behalf of certain government agencies, third-party payors or health plans, or quality improvement organizations. We may also share Part 2 Records with such auditors if you sign a consent allowing us to share Part 2 Records for health care operations.

### Respond to lawsuits and legal actions

We can share information from your Health Center Record about you in response to a court or administrative order or a subpoena.

For any Part 2 Records:

- Part 2 Records, or testimony relaying the content of such records, shall not be used or disclosed in any civil, administrative, criminal, or legislative proceedings against you unless based on specific written consent or a court order.
- Part 2 Records shall only be used or disclosed based on a court order after notice and an opportunity to be heard is provided to you or to the holder of the record, where required by 42 U.S.C. 290dd-2 and 42 CFR Part 2; and
- A court order authorizing use or disclosure must be accompanied by a subpoena or other similar legal mandate compelling disclosure before the Part 2 Record is used or disclosed.

### 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 compromises 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 information from your Health Center Record, including any Part 2 Records, other than as described in this notice, unless you consent in writing. You may change your mind at any time. To revoke (take back) your consent, submit a request in writing to our Health Information Management department at 903-535-9041 or by email at [medicalrecords@txfcc.org](mailto:medicalrecords@txfcc.org). If you revoke your consent, it will not affect any information we shared based on your earlier permission.

### Changes to the Terms of this Notice

We can change this notice and make the new provisions effective for all the information we have about you. We will post the updated notice in our reception area and on our website [www.tylercircleofcare.org](http://www.tylercircleofcare.org). You may also request a paper copy of the current notice.

### Effective Date

This notice is effective as of February 16, 2026.