

## **HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices**

**of**

## **COMMERCIAL CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY**

**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: June 01, 2017

This Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”) applies to Commercial Casualty Insurance Company’s (“we”, “us” or “our”) insured health benefits plan. We are required to provide you with this Notice.

Personal Information is information that identifies you as an individual, such as your name and Social Security Number, as well as financial, health and other information about you that is nonpublic, and that we obtain so we can provide you with insurance coverage.

Protected Health Information (your “Health Information”) is information that identifies you as related to your physical or mental health, your health care, or payment for your healthcare.

### **Our Responsibilities**

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of the Health Information we hold and to provide you with this Notice and to follow the duties and privacy practices described in this Notice. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice currently in effect.

We utilize administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect your information against unauthorized access and against threats and hazards to its security and integrity. We comply with all applicable state and federal rules pertaining to the security and confidentiality of your information.

We will promptly inform you if a breach has occurred that may have compromised the privacy or security of your Health Information.

### **Overview of this Notice**

This Notice describes how certain information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. This Notice addresses three primary areas:

- An overview of Your Health Information. This section addresses how we collect your information, how we use it to run our business, and the reasons we share it.
- Your Rights. This section gives an overview of the rights you have with respect to your information we have in our records.
- How to Contact Us. In case you have any questions, requests, or even if you feel you need to make a complaint, we want to make sure you are in contact with the right person.

## YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

### How We Acquire Your Information

In order to provide you with insurance coverage, we need Personal Information about you. Some of this information is collected from the school during the enrollment period. Other information comes to us from your health care provider, other insurers, third party administrators (TPAs), and your school's health center. This information is necessary to properly administer your health plan benefits.

### How We use Your Health Information

Below are some examples of how we use and disclose your Health Information. Broadly, we will use and disclose your Health Information for Treatment, Payment and Health Care Operations.

**Treatment** refers to the health care treatment you receive. We do not provide treatment, but we may disclose certain information to doctors, dentists, pharmacies, hospitals, and other health care providers who will take care of you. For example, a doctor may send us information about your diagnosis and treatment so we can develop a health care plan and arrange additional services.

**Payment** refers to activities involving the collection of premiums, payment of claims, and determining covered services. For example, we may review your Health Information to determine if a particular treatment is medically necessary and what that payment for the services should be.

**Health Care Operations** refers to the business functions necessary for us to operate, such as audits, complaints responses and quality assurance activities. For example, we would use your Health Information (but not genetic information) for underwriting and calculating rates, or we may use your Health Information to detect and investigate fraud.

### Additionally:

- We may **confirm enrollment** in this health plan with your school or to your school's consultant or your school's business partner.
- If you are a **dependent** of someone on the plan, we may disclose certain information to the plan's subscriber, such as an explanation of benefits for a service you may have received.
- Your school's health center may require enrollment information, payment information, or may require your Health Information to coordinate on-campus services you may need.

We may disclose your information when instructed to do so, including:

- **Health oversight activities** may require that we disclose your information to governmental, licensing, auditing and accrediting agencies;
- **Legal proceedings** may require disclosure of your Health Information in response to a court order or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena, discovery request, warrant, summons, or other valid process;
- **Law enforcement activities** might require disclosure of certain Health Information to local, state or federal law enforcement, so long as the release is authorized or required by law;
- **As required by law** or to avert a serious threat to safety or health; and,
- To **certain government agencies**, such as the Department of health and Human Services or the Office of Civil Rights if they are conducting an investigation or audit.

### **Authorizations**

Occasionally we may receive a request to share your information in a manner outside of how we normally use your Health Information, as described above. In those cases, we will ask you for your authorization before we share your Health Information.

### **YOUR RIGHTS**

You have the **right to request restrictions** on certain uses and disclosures of your Health Information, including the uses and disclosures listed in this Notice and disclosures permitted by law. You also have the **right to request that we communicate with you in certain ways**.

- We will accommodate reasonable requests;
- We are not required to agree to a request to restrict a disclosure unless you have paid for the cost of the health care item or service in full (i.e., the entire sum for the procedure performed) and disclosure is not otherwise required by law; and,
- If you are a minor, depending on the state you reside in, you may have the right in certain circumstances to block parental access to your Health Information. For example, a minor would have the rights of an adult with respect to diagnosis and care of conditions such as STDs, drug dependency, and pregnancy.

You have the **right to inspect and copy your Health Information** in our records. Please note that there are exceptions to this, such as:

- Psychotherapy notes;
- Information compiled in reasonable anticipation, or for use in, a civil, criminal or administrative action or proceeding;
- Health Information that is subject to a law prohibiting access to that information; or,
- If the Health Information was obtained from someone other than us under a promise of confidentiality and the access request would be reasonably likely to reveal the source of the information.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy your Health Information if:

- A licensed health care professional has determined your requested access is reasonably likely to endanger your life or physical safety of another;
- The Health Information makes reference to another person and a licensed health care professional has determined that access requested is reasonably likely to cause substantial harm to another; or,
- A licensed health care professional has determined that access requested by your personal representative is likely to cause substantial harm to you or another person.

You have the **right to request an amendment** to your Health Information if you believe the information we have on file is incomplete or inaccurate. Your request must be in writing and must include the reason for the request. If we deny your request, you may file a written statement of disagreement.

You have the right to know who we have provided your information to - - this is known as an **accounting of disclosures**. A request for an accounting of disclosures must be submitted in writing to the address below. The accounting will not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, health care operations, for law enforcement purposes, or as otherwise permitted or required by law. If you request

an accounting of disclosures more than once in a twelve (12) month period we may charge a reasonable fee to process, compile and deliver the information to you this second time.

You have a **right to receive a paper copy of this Notice**. Simply call the customer service line indicated on your ID card and request a paper copy be mailed to you. You may also submit a written request to us at the address below.

You will receive a notice of a breach of your Health Information. You have the **right to be notified of a breach** of unsecure Health Information.

Finally, you have the **right to file a complaint** if you feel your privacy rights were violated. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

#### **CONTACT**

For all inquiries, requests and complaints, please contact:

Privacy and Security Officer  
Commercial Casualty Insurance Company  
c/o Consolidated Health Plans  
2077 Roosevelt Avenue  
Springfield, MA 01104

#### **This Notice is Subject to Change**

We may change the terms of this notice and our privacy policies at any time. If we do, the new terms and policies will be effective for all of your Health Information we maintain, as well as any information we may receive or maintain in the future.

Please note that we do not destroy your Health Information when you terminate your coverage with us. It may be necessary to use and disclose this information for the purposes described above even after our coverage terminates, although policies and procedures will remain in place to protect against inappropriate use and disclosure.