



## Notice of Privacy Practices

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

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### Wyoming Medical Center and Affiliated Entities

At Wyoming Medical Center, we believe that your health information is personal. We keep records of the care and service that you receive at our facilities. We are committed to keeping your health information private and we are also required by law to respect your confidentiality.

This notice describes the privacy practices of Wyoming Medical Center and its affiliated facilities, Wyoming Health Medical Group. This notice applies to all of the health records that identify you and the care you receive at Wyoming Medical Center operated facilities, including Wyoming Medical Center and Wyoming Health Medical Group.

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### Our Legal Responsibility

Wyoming Medical Center and affiliated facilities are legally required to protect the privacy of your health information. This information is called "protected health information" (PHI). PHI includes information that can be used to identify you that we have created or received about your past, present, or future health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or the payment of this health care. We have an obligation to provide you with this notice about our privacy practices that explains how, when and why we

use and disclose your PHI. We are legally required to follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice.

However, we reserve the right to change the terms of this notice and our privacy policies at any time. Any changes will apply to the PHI we already have. You can view or print a current copy of this notice on our website at [www.wyomingmedicalcenter.org](http://www.wyomingmedicalcenter.org).

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### How Wyoming Medical Center and Affiliated Entities may Use or Disclose Your Health Information

Wyoming Medical Center and affiliated entities use and disclose health information for many different reasons, which are listed below:

**1. For treatment, payment or healthcare operations.** Treatment includes sharing information among healthcare providers involved with your care. For example, your physician may share information about your condition with the pharmacist to discuss

appropriate medications or with radiologists or other consultants in order to make a diagnosis. We may disclose your medical information as required by your insurance or other payment sources to receive payment for treatment. We may use your health

information for healthcare operations, such as to improve the quality of care, or to contracted accountants, attorneys or consultants.

**2. The hospital directory.** We may include certain limited information about you in the hospital directory while you are a patient at the hospital. This information may include your name, location in the hospital, general condition, and your religious affiliation. The directory information, except for your religious affiliation, may also be released to people who ask for you by name. You may opt out of the hospital directory in writing by requesting a “no-pub” form or by speaking to the Privacy Officer. If you or a family member shares your hospital status on social media or by other means, you may receive unexpected phone calls.

**3. Notification and communication with family or patient representative.** We may disclose your health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, your personal representative or another person responsible for your care about your location, your general condition or in the event of your death. **If possible, we will give you the opportunity to agree or object prior to making this notification.**

**4. As required by law.** We may release your information as required by law.

**5. Public health activities.** We may disclose medical information about you for public health activities. These activities generally include the following:

- to prevent or control disease, injury, or disability
- to report births and deaths;
- to report child abuse or neglect;
- to report reactions to medications or problems with products;
- to notify people of recalls of products they may be using;
- to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition;
- to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse or neglect. (If you agree or as required by law).

**6. Health oversight activities.** We may disclose your health information to health agencies during the course of audits,

investigations, inspections, licensure and other proceedings.

**7. Judicial and administrative proceedings.** We may disclose your health information in the course of any administrative or judicial proceeding.

**8. Law enforcement.** We may disclose your health information to a law enforcement official for purposes such as identifying or locating a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person, complying with a court order or subpoena and other law enforcement purposes, regardless of hospital directory preference.

**9. Deceased person information.** We may disclose your health information to coroners, medical examiners, funeral directors or others previously involved in your care unless you previously request a restriction.

**10. Organ donation.** We may disclose your health information to organizations involved in procuring, banking or transplanting organs and tissues.

**11. Research.** In certain circumstances, we may provide PHI in order to conduct research.

**12. Public safety.** We may provide PHI to law enforcement or persons able to prevent or lessen harm in order to avoid a threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.

**13. Military and national security.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release medical information about you as required by military command authorities. We may also disclose your PHI for reasons of national security.

**14. Worker’s Compensation.** We may provide PHI in order to comply with worker’s compensation laws.

**15. Appointment reminders and health benefits or services.** We may use PHI to provide appointment reminders or give you information about treatment alternatives, or other healthcare services or benefits we offer.

**16. Inmates.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may release medical information about you to the correctional institution or law enforcement official.

**17. Change of ownership.** In the event that Wyoming Medical Center and affiliated facilities are sold or merged with another organization, your health information/record will become the property of the new owner.

**18. Fundraising.** Wyoming Medical Center may use your protected health information for fundraising communications. You have the right to opt out of fundraising communications by contacting the Wyoming Medical Center Foundation director.

**19. School immunizations.** Wyoming Medical Center may release immunization records to schools without written permission.

**20. Electronic Health Information Exchange.** Wyoming Medical Center may participate in electronic health

information exchanges. We may make your protected health information available electronically to other healthcare providers, health plans and public health authorities who request your information for the purpose of treatment, payment, operations or public health activities. You may opt out of this exchange by contacting the privacy officer in writing.

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### When Wyoming Medical Center and Affiliated Entities May Not Use or Disclose Your Health Information

In any other situation not described above, we will ask for your written authorization before using or disclosing any of your PHI. Authorization forms are available upon request.

If you choose to sign an authorization to disclose your PHI, you can later revoke that authorization in writing to stop any future uses and disclosures.

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### Your Rights Regarding Medical Information About You

**Right to inspect and copy.** You have the right to inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about your care. Usually, this includes medical and billing records. You may request copies of your health information in an electronic format. You may also delegate another individual to receive a copy of your protected health information.

To inspect and copy medical information that may be used to make decisions about you, you must submit your request in writing to: **Release of Information, Wyoming Medical Center, 1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Casper, WY 82601.** If you request a copy of the information, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain very limited circumstances. If you are denied access to medical information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. Another licensed healthcare professional chosen by the hospital will review your request and the denial. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

**Right to privacy breach notification.** You have a right to receive notifications whenever a breach of unsecured protected health information occurs. Wyoming Medical Center is required by law and will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.

**Right to amend.** If you feel that medical information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for the hospital.

To request an amendment, your request must be made in writing and submitted to The **Privacy Officer, Wyoming Medical Center, 1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Casper, WY 82601.** In addition, you must provide a reason that supports your request.

We may deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:

- Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;

- Is not part of the medical information kept by or for the hospital;
- Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
- Is accurate and complete.

**Right to an accounting of disclosures.** You can ask for a list of the times we have 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 healthcare operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We will provide one accounting a year free, but will charge a reasonable cost based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to **The Privacy Officer, Wyoming Medical Center, 1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Casper, WY 82601.** Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper, electronically). We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.

**Right to request restrictions.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the medical information we use or disclose about you for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. You also have the right to request a limit on the medical information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care.

***We are not required to agree to your request.*** However, Wyoming Medical Center will always agree to a request to restrict a release to an insurance provider if you pay the bill at the time of service.

To request a restriction, your request must be made in writing and submitted to **The Privacy Officer, Wyoming Medical Center, 1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Casper, WY 82601.**

**Sale and marketing of protected health information.** Wyoming Medical Center will not use or disclose any protected health information for marketing purposes or sell your protected health information without your prior authorization.

**Psychotherapy notes.** Wyoming Medical Center will never share psychotherapy notes unless you give us written permission.

**Right to request confidential communications.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about medical matters in a certain way or at a certain location.

To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing to the Privacy Officer. You may ask for a confidential communication form at the registration desk. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.

**Right to a paper copy of this notice.** You have the right to a paper copy of this notice. You may ask us to give you a copy of this notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this notice.

You may obtain a current copy of this notice at our website, [www.wyomingmedicalcenter.org](http://www.wyomingmedicalcenter.org). To obtain a paper copy of this notice, write to **The Privacy Officer, Wyoming Medical Center, 1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Casper, WY 82601.**

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## How to File a Complaint

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint in writing with the hospital or with the Office of Civil Rights. To file a complaint with the hospital, write to:

Effective Date: April 14, 2003  
Updated January 1, 2018

The Privacy Officer  
1233 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-577-2034  
compliance@wyomingmedicalcenter.org

or

Office for Civil Rights, DHHS  
1961 Stout Street - Room 1426  
Denver, CO 80294  
(303) 844-2024; (303) 844-3439 (TDD)  
(303) 844-2025 FAX

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### **You Will Not Be Penalized for Filing a Complaint**

Wyoming Medical Center and affiliated facilities considers the protection of your health information a high priority and you will not be penalized for filing a complaint. If you feel that

you have received undue treatment for filing a complaint, please use the above contact information to report the incident.

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