**Privacy Policy**

Notwithstanding, if you request a restriction that we agree to, and the information you asked us to

restrict is needed to provide you with emergency treatment, then we may disclose the PHI to a

healthcare provider to provide you with emergency treatment.

A restriction may be terminated if you agree to or request the termination. Most current restrictions

may also be terminated by Union Ambulance District as long we notify you. If so, PHI that is created or

received after the restriction is terminated is no longer subject to the restriction. But, PHI that was

restricted prior to the notice to you voiding the restriction must continue to be treated as restricted PHI.

***Right to notice of a breach of unsecured protected health information.*** If we discover that there has

been a breach of your unsecured PHI, we will notify you about that breach by first-class mail dispatched

to the most recent address that we have on file. If you prefer to be notified about breaches by

electronic mail, please contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer, to make Union Ambulance District aware of this preference and to provide a valid email address to send the electronic notice. You may withdraw your agreement to receive notice by email at any time by contacting our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

***Right to request confidential communications.*** You have the right to request that we send your PHI to

an alternate location (e.g., somewhere other than your home address) or in a specific manner (e.g., by

email rather than regular mail). However, we will only comply with reasonable requests when required

by law to do so. If you wish to request that we communicate PHI to a specific location or in a specific

format, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in writing.

**Internet, Email and the Right to Obtain Copy of Paper Notice**

If we maintain a web site, we will prominently post a copy of this Notice on our web site and make the

Notice available electronically through the web site. If you allow us, we will forward you this Notice by

electronic mail instead of on paper and you may always request a paper copy of the Notice.

**Revisions to the Notice**

Union Ambulance District is required to abide by the terms of the version of this Notice currently in

effect. However, Union Ambulance District reserves the right to change the terms of this Notice at any

time, and the changes will be effective immediately and will apply to all PHI that we maintain. Any

material changes to the Notice will be promptly posted in our facilities and on our website, if we

maintain one. You can get a copy of the latest version of this Notice by contacting our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

**Your Legal Rights and Complaints**

You also have the right to complain to us, or to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health

and Human Services, if you believe that your privacy rights have been violated. You will not be retaliated

against in any way for filing a complaint with us or to the government.

Should you have any questions, comments or complaints, you may direct all inquiries to our HIPAA Compliance Officer. Individuals will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

If you have any questions or if you wish to file a complaint or exercise any rights listed in this Notice,

please contact:

Kayla Herman

Union Ambulance District

211 South Church Street

Union, Missouri 63084

Phone:(636) 583-2600

Fax:(636) 583-4947

Email: [kherman@unionambulance.org](mailto:kherman@unionambulance.org)

**Effective Date of the Notice**: September 14, 2023

**Union Ambulance District Notice of Privacy Practices**

**IMPORTANT: 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.**

Union Ambulance District is committed to protecting your personal health information. We are required

by law to maintain the privacy of health information that could reasonably be used to identify you,

known as “protected health information” or “PHI.” We are also required by law to provide you with the

attached detailed Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”) explaining our legal duties and privacy practices

with respect to your PHI.

We respect your privacy, and treat all healthcare information about our patients with care under strict

policies of confidentiality that our staff is committed to following at all times.

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED DETAILED NOTICE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT, PLEASE

CONTACT OUR HIPAA COMPLIANCE OFFICER, AT 636-583-2600.

**Purpose of This Notice:** This Notice describes your legal rights, advises you of our privacy practices, and

lets you know how Union Ambulance District is permitted to use and disclose PHI about you.

**Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI We Can Make Without Your Authorization**

Union Ambulance District may use or disclose your PHI without your authorization, or without providing

you with an opportunity to object, for the following purposes:

**Treatment.** This includes such things as verbal and written information that we obtain about you and

use pertaining to your medical condition and treatment provided to you by us and other medical

personnel (including doctors and nurses who give orders to allow us to provide treatment to you). It also

includes information we give to other healthcare personnel to whom we transfer your care and

treatment, and includes transfer of PHI via radio or telephone to the hospital or dispatch center as well

as providing the hospital with a copy of the written record we create in the course of providing you with

treatment and transport.

**Payment.** This includes any activities we must undertake in order to get reimbursed for the services

that we provide to you, including such things as organizing your PHI, submitting bills to insurance

companies (either directly or through a third-party billing company), managing billed claims for services

rendered, performing medical necessity determinations and reviews, performing utilization reviews, and

collecting outstanding accounts.

**Healthcare Operations.** This includes quality assurance activities, licensing, and training programs to

ensure that our personnel meet our standards of care and follow established policies and procedures,

obtaining legal and financial services, conducting business planning, processing grievances and

complaints, creating reports that do not individually identify you for data collection purposes,

fundraising, and certain marketing activities.

**Fundraising.** We may contact you when we are in the process of raising funds for Union Ambulance

District, or to provide you with information about possible annual subscription programs.

In addition, we may use your PHI for certain fundraising activities. For example, we may use PHI that we

collect about you, such as your name, home address, phone number or other information, in order to

contact you to raise funds for our agency. We may also share this information with another

organization that may contact you to raise money on our behalf. If Union Ambulance District does use

your PHI to conduct fundraising activities, you have the right to opt out of receiving such fundraising

communications from Union Ambulance District. If you do not want to be contacted for our fundraising

efforts, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

Contact information for our HIPAA Compliance Officer is listed at the end of this Notice. We will

also remind you of this right to opt out of receiving future fundraising communications every time that

we use your PHI to conduct fundraising and contact you to raise funds. Union Ambulance District will

not condition the provision of medical care on your willingness, or non-willingness, to receive

fundraising communications.

**Reminders for Scheduled Transports and Information on Other Services.** We may also contact you to

provide you with a reminder of any scheduled appointments for non-emergency ambulance and medical

transportation, or for other information about alternative services we provide or other health-related

benefits and services that may be of interest to you.

**Other Uses and Disclosure of Your PHI We Can Make Without Authorization.**

Union Ambulance District is also permitted to use or disclose your PHI without your written

authorization in situations including:

• For the treatment activities of another healthcare provider;

• To another healthcare provider or entity for the payment activities of the provider or entity that

receives the information (such as your hospital or insurance company);

• To another healthcare provider (such as the hospital to which you are transported) for the

healthcare operations activities of the entity that receives the information as long as the entity

receiving the information has or has had a relationship with you and the PHI pertains to that

relationship;

• For healthcare fraud and abuse detection or for activities related to compliance with the law;

• To a family member, other relative, or close personal friend or other individual involved in your

care if we obtain your verbal agreement to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to

such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection. We may also disclose health information to

your family, relatives, or friends if we infer from the circumstances that you would not object.

For example, we may assume that you agree to our disclosure of your personal health

information to your spouse when your spouse has called the ambulance for you. In situations

where you are incapable of objecting (because you are not present or due to your incapacity or

medical emergency), we may, in our professional judgment, determine that a disclosure to your

family member, relative, or friend is in your best interest. In that situation, we will disclose only

health information relevant to that person’s involvement in your care. For example, we may

inform the person who accompanied you in the ambulance that you have certain symptoms and

we may give that person an update on your vital signs and treatment that is being administered

by our ambulance crew;

• To a public health authority in certain situations (such as reporting a birth, death or disease, as

required by law), as part of a public health investigation, to report child or adult abuse, neglect

or domestic violence, to report adverse events such as product defects, or to notify a person

about exposure to a possible communicable disease, as required by law;

• For health oversight activities including audits or government investigations, inspections,

disciplinary proceedings, and other administrative or judicial actions undertaken by the

government (or their contractors) by law to oversee the healthcare system;

• For judicial and administrative proceedings, as required by a court or administrative order, or in

some cases in response to a subpoena or other legal process;

• For law enforcement activities in limited situations, such as when there is a warrant for the

request, or when the information is needed to locate a suspect or stop a crime;

• For military, national defense and security and other special government functions;

• To avert a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public at large;

• For workers’ compensation purposes, and in compliance with workers’ compensation laws;

• To coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors for identifying a deceased person,

determining cause of death, or carrying on their duties as authorized by law;

• If you are an organ donor, we may release health information to organizations that handle

organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation, or to an organ donation bank, as

necessary to facilitate organ donation and transplantation; and

• For research projects, but this will be subject to strict oversight and approvals and health

information will be released only when there is a minimal risk to your privacy and adequate

safeguards are in place in accordance with the law.

**Uses and Disclosures of Your PHI That Require Your Written Consent**

Any other use or disclosure of PHI, other than those listed above, will only be made with your written

authorization (the authorization must specifically identify the information we seek to use or disclose, as

well as when and how we seek to use or disclose it). Specifically, we must obtain your written authorization before using or disclosing your: (a) psychotherapy notes, other than for the purpose of carrying out our own treatment, payment or health care operations purposes, (b) PHI for marketing when we receive payment to make a marketing communication; or (c) PHI when engaging in a sale of your PHI. **You may revoke your authorization at any time, in writing, except to the extent that we have already used or disclosed medical information in reliance on that authorization.**

**Your Rights Regarding Your PHI**

As a patient, you have a number of rights with respect to your PHI, including:

***Right to access, copy or inspect your PHI.*** You have the right to inspect and copy most of the medical

information that we collect and maintain about you. Requests for access to your PHI should be made in

writing to our HIPAA Compliance Officer. In limited circumstances, we may deny you access to your

medical information, and you may appeal certain types of denials. We have available forms to request

access to your PHI, and we will provide a written response if we deny you access and let you know your

appeal rights. If you wish to inspect and copy your medical information, you should our HIPAA Compliance Officer.

We will normally provide you with access to this information within 30 days of your written request. If

we maintain your medical information in electronic format, then you have a right to obtain a copy of

that information in an electronic format. In addition, if you request that we transmit a copy of your PHI

directly to another person, we will do so provided your request is in writing, signed by you (or your

representative), and you clearly identify the designated person and where to send the copy of your PHI.

We may also charge you a reasonable cost-based fee for providing you access to your PHI, subject to the

limits of applicable state law.

***Right to request an amendment of your PHI.*** You have the right to ask us to amend protected health

information that we maintain about you. Requests for amendments to your PHI should be made in

writing and you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer if you wish to make a

request for amendment and fill out an amendment request form.

When required by law to do so, we will amend your information within 60 days of your request and will

notify you when we have amended the information. We are permitted by law to deny your request to

amend your medical information in certain circumstances, such as when we believe that the information

you have asked us to amend is correct.

***Right to request an accounting of uses and disclosures of your PHI.*** You may request an accounting

from us of disclosures of your medical information. If you wish to request an accounting of disclosures

of your PHI that are subject to the accounting requirement, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in writing.

You have the right to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your PHI made within six (6) years

immediately preceding your request. But, we are not required to provide you with an accounting of

disclosures of your PHI: (a) for purposes of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations; (b) for

disclosures that you expressly authorized; (c) disclosures made to you, your family or friends, or (d) for

disclosures made for law enforcement or certain other governmental purposes.

***Right to request restrictions on uses and disclosures of your PHI.*** You have the right to request that we

restrict how we use and disclose your medical information for treatment, payment or healthcare

operations purposes, or to restrict the information that is provided to family, friends and other

individuals involved in your healthcare. However, we are only required to abide by a requested

restriction under limited circumstances, and it is generally our policy that we will not agree to any

restrictions unless required by law to do so. If you wish to request a restriction on the use or disclosure

of your PHI, you should contact our HIPAA Compliance Officer and make a request in

writing.

Union Ambulance District is required to abide by a requested restriction when you ask that we not

release PHI to your health plan (insurer) about a service for which you (or someone on your behalf) have

paid Union Ambulance District in full. We are also required to abide by any restrictions that we agree to.