

Notice of Privacy Practices: What You Need to Know AND Do

The Privacy Rule provides that an individual has a right to adequate notice of how a covered entity may use and disclose protected health information (PHI) about an individual, as well as their rights and the covered entity's obligations with respect to that information.

Covered entities are required to provide a notice in plain language that includes an effective date and describes:

- How the covered entity may use and disclose PHI about an individual.
- The individual's rights with respect to the information and how the individual may exercise these rights, including how the individual may complain to the covered entity.
- The covered entity's legal duties with respect to the information, including a statement that the covered entity is required by law to maintain the privacy of PHI.
- Whom individuals can contact for further information about the covered entity's privacy policies. A covered entity is required to promptly revise and distribute its notice whenever it makes material changes to any of its privacy practices.

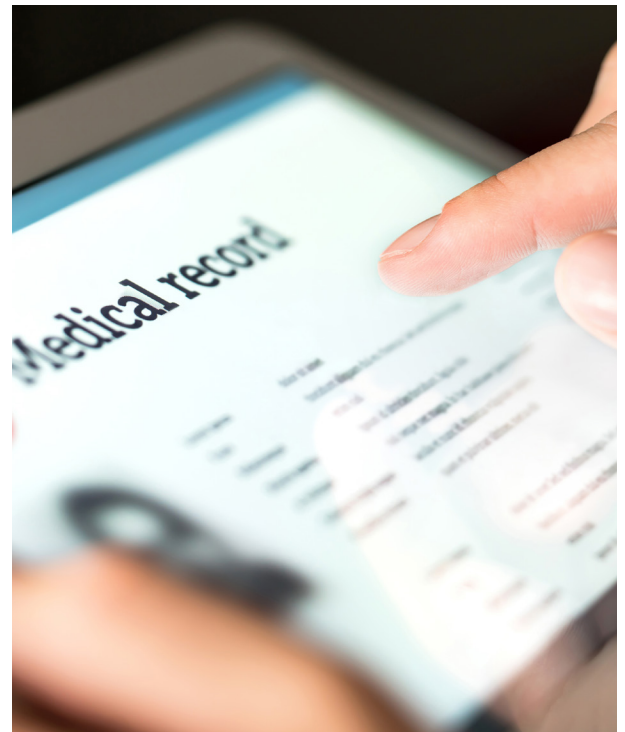
Distribution

A covered entity must:

- make its notice available to any person who asks for it;
- physically post the notice prominently; and
- make it available on any websites or web pages.

Organizational Options

Any covered entity, including a hybrid entity or an affiliated covered entity, may choose to develop more than one notice, such as when an entity performs different types of covered functions and there are variations in its privacy practices among these covered functions. Covered entities are encouraged to provide individuals with the most specific notice possible.



Joint Notice of Privacy Practices

Healthcare providers and other covered entities that participate in an organized healthcare arrangement (OHCA) may:

- use a single, joint notice that covers all of the participating covered entities; OR
- maintain separate notices.

Where a joint notice is provided to an individual by any one of the covered entities to which the joint notice applies, the Privacy Rule's requirements for providing the notice are satisfied for all others covered by the joint notice.

While HIPAA regulations are enforced to ensure privacy, improve data management, and control fraudulent activity, organizations will ultimately find value in not only avoiding noncompliance costs, but also in securing their responsibilities to protect the people they serve.

An individual has a right to adequate notice of how a covered entity may use and disclose protected health information.



About BlueOrange Compliance:

BlueOrange Compliance specializes in assisting healthcare organizations navigate HIPAA and HITECH privacy and security requirements. Complex, ever-changing healthcare regulations and increasing risks make it difficult for organizations to stay in front of emerging cyber threats. As a single source, we equip every client with affordable, practical, comprehensive privacy and security solutions, including multiple sources of information to help manage risk. Our clients have peace of mind knowing they are compliant and prepared for potential breaches and adverse audits.