

**BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS CITY
JOINT NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES**

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW PERSONAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY. THE PRIVACY OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Summary of Our Legal Duty and Privacy Practices

To provide health insurance and health plan related services to you as our member, we will collect personal and medical information regarding your health conditions, the health care services you receive, and the payment for those conditions and services. We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of the personal and medical information we collect from and about you. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your information.

We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect **October 15, 2024**, and will remain in effect unless we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make any change in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice applicable to all personal and medical information we maintain, including information we created or received before we made the change. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and send the new notice to our health plan subscribers at the time of the change.

Please review this entire notice for details about the uses and disclosures we may make of your personal and medical information, about your rights and how to exercise them, and about complaints regarding or additional information about our privacy practices.

Contact Information

The complete Notice of Privacy Practices is available on our website – www.BlueKC.com

For more information about our privacy practices, to discuss questions or concerns, or to get additional copies of this notice or copies in other languages, please contact our Privacy Office.

Contact Office: Privacy Office
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
P. O. Box 417012
Kansas City, MO 64141
Telephone: 816-395-3784 or toll free at 1-800-932-1114
Fax: 816-395-2862 E-mail: privacy@bluekc.com

Organizations Covered by this Notice

This notice applies to the privacy practices of the organizations listed below. They may share with each other your information, (information includes data submitted by providers, lab results and other health care programs you elect to participate in) and the information of others they service, for the health care operations of their joint activities.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
Good Health HMO, Inc.

Blue-Advantage Plus of Kansas City, Inc.
Missouri Valley Life and Health Insurance Company

Information Collected

The information we collect about you may include information such as your name, phone number, social security number, address, date of birth, financial and health information, insurance claims information, and other medical information. Most of this information will be obtained from you, your employer, or the health care providers who bill for services provided to you. We may also obtain information about you from other insurers, service providers, consumer reporting agencies and third parties. If we request a report from a consumer reporting agency, we will notify you promptly with the name and address of the agency that will furnish the report. You may request in writing to be interviewed as part of the investigation. The agency may retain a copy of the report. The agency may disclose it to other persons as allowed by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Uses and Disclosures of Your Information

Treatment: We may disclose your information, without your permission, to a physician or other health care provider to treat you.

Payment: We may use and disclose your information, without your permission, for payment activities. Payment activities include paying claims from physicians, hospitals and other health care providers for services delivered to you that are covered by your health plan, determining your eligibility for benefits, coordinating your benefits with other payers, obtaining reimbursement from a reinsurance or stoploss carrier associated with your health plan, determining the medical necessity of care delivered to you, obtaining premiums for your health coverage, issuing explanations of benefits to the subscriber of the health plan in which you participate, and the like. We may disclose your information to a health care provider or another health plan for their payment activities.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your information, without your permission, for health care operations. Health care operations include:

- health care quality assessment and improvement activities;
- reviewing and evaluating health care provider and health plan performance, qualifications and competence, health care training programs, health care provider and health plan accreditation, certification, licensing and credentialing activities;
- conducting or arranging for medical reviews, audits, and legal services, including fraud and abuse detection and prevention;
- underwriting and premium rating our risk for health coverage, and obtaining stop-loss and similar reinsurance for our health coverage obligations (although we are prohibited from using or disclosing any genetic information for these underwriting purposes); and
- business planning, development, management, and general administration, including customer service, grievance resolution, claims payment and health

coverage improvement activities, de-identifying information, and

- creating limited data sets for health care operations, public health activities, and research.

We may disclose your information to another health plan or to a health care provider subject to federal privacy protection laws, as long as the plan or provider has or had a relationship with you and the information is for that plan's or provider's health care quality assessment and improvement activities, competence and qualification evaluation and review activities, or fraud and abuse detection and prevention.

Health Information Exchange. To facilitate the above described uses and disclosures of your information, we may participate in an information network or exchange that involves other health plans or healthcare providers.

Business Associates. We may disclose your information to businesses that provide services to us. We will obtain written agreement from those businesses that they will protect your information consistent with this Notice prior to disclosing your information.

Your Authorization. You may give us written authorization to use your information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosure permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. To the extent (if any) that we maintain or receive psychotherapy notes about you, most disclosures of these notes require your authorization. Also, to the extent (if any) that we use or disclose your information for our fundraising practices, we will provide you with the ability to opt out of future fundraising communications. In addition, most (but not all) uses and disclosures of information for marketing purposes, and disclosures that constitute a sale of protected health information, require your authorization. Unless you give us written authorization, we will not use or disclose your information for any purpose other than those described in this notice.

Family, Friends, and Others Involved in Your Care or Payment for Care. We may disclose your information to a family member, friend or any other person you involve in your care or payment for your health care. We will disclose only the information that is relevant to the person's involvement.

We may use or disclose your name, location, and general condition to notify, or to assist an appropriate public or private agency to locate and notify, a person responsible for your care in appropriate situations, such as a medical emergency or during disaster relief efforts.

We will provide you with an opportunity to object to these disclosures, unless you are not present or are incapacitated or it is an emergency or disaster relief situation. In those situations, we will use our professional judgment to determine whether disclosing your information is in your best interest under the circumstances.

Your Employer. We may disclose to your employer whether you are enrolled or disenrolled in a health plan that your employer sponsors.

We may disclose summary health information to your employer to use to obtain premium bids for the health insurance coverage offered under the group health plan in which you participate or to decide whether to modify, amend or terminate that group health plan. Summary health information is aggregated claims history, claims expenses or types of claims experienced by the enrollees in your group health plan. Although summary health information will be stripped of all direct identifiers of these enrollees, it still may be possible to identify information contained in the summary health information as yours.

We may disclose your information and the information of others enrolled in your group health plan to your employer to administer your group health plan. Before we may do that, your employer must amend the plan document for your group health plan to establish the limited uses and disclosures it may make of your information. Please see your group health plan document for a full explanation of those limitations.

Health-Related Products and Services: Where permitted by law, we may use your personal information to communicate with you and certain state/federal government agencies: (1) in support of efficient operation of a health insurance marketplace (e.g., qualified health plan application assistance); (2) to communicate with you about health-related products, benefits and services, and (3) payment for those products, benefits and services that we provide or

include in our benefits plan. We may use your information to communicate with you about treatment alternatives that may be of interest to you.

These communications may include information about the health care providers in our networks, about replacement of or enhancements to your health plan, and about health-related products or services that are available only to our enrollees that add value to our benefits plans.

Other Disclosures. We may use and disclose your information, without your permission, to unaffiliated third parties when required by law, and when authorized by law for the following kinds of activities:

- for public health, including to report disease and vital statistics, child abuse, and adult abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- to avert a serious and imminent threat to health or safety;
- for health care oversight, such as activities of state insurance commissioners, licensing and peer review authorities, and fraud prevention agencies;
- for research;
- in response to court and administrative orders and other lawful process;
- to law enforcement officials with regard to crime victims and criminal activities;
- to coroners, medical examiners, funeral directors, and organ procurement organizations;
- to the military, to federal officials for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and national security activities, and to correctional institutions and law enforcement regarding persons in lawful custody; and
- as authorized by state worker's compensation laws.

Substance Use and Treatment Information: Records created by a program that provides diagnosis, treatment or referral for treatment related to substance use disorders are subject to additional protections under 42 C.F.R. Part 2. We are not a program under these laws, but if you provide authorization for a program to share records with us regarding substance use diagnosis, treatment or referral, then we will only further disclose those records as permitted by the authorization. Where your original authorization is for disclosure related to payment or health care operations, our further use or disclosure of the information may include disclosures to our Business Associates to perform those payment and health care operations. Records subject to 42 C.F.R. Part 2 will not be used or disclosed in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against

you unless based on written authorization or a court order after notice and opportunity to be heard.

Records Potentially Related to Reproductive Health Care: We will require an attestation prior to disclosing any information about you that may include information related to reproductive health care for health oversight activities, judicial and administrative proceedings, law enforcement purposes, or to coroners or medical directors. The attestation must verify that the purpose of the disclosure is not to conduct or impose criminal, civil or administrative investigation or liability against any person for seeking, obtaining, providing or facilitating reproductive health care. For example, if we received a subpoena requesting your records for last year and those records included services related to reproductive health care, we would require an attestation from the requestor

prior to providing the records in response to the subpoena.

Disclosures Requiring an Authorization. Other than disclosures described above or as permitted by applicable law, we will obtain your authorization prior to disclosing your information. We must obtain your authorization to use your information for marketing purposes, to sell your information, to use your genetic information for underwriting purposes, or to disclose psychotherapy notes. Certain types of information, such as substance use treatment information, HIV testing, and genetic information may require authorization or be subject to additional restrictions under the law.

Your Rights

If you wish to exercise any of the rights set out in this section, you should submit your request in writing to our Privacy Office. You may obtain a form by calling Customer Service at the phone number on the back of your ID card to make your request. We do not and will not require you to waive your rights under 45 CFR Part 160, subparts C or D, as a condition of the provision of treatment, payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility for benefits.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this notice on our Web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this notice in written form. Please contact our Privacy Office to obtain this notice in written form.

Access: You have the right to examine and to receive a copy of your personal and medical information or have a copy of your information provided to another person on your behalf, with limited exceptions. This may include an electronic copy in certain circumstances. Your request must be made in writing.

We may charge you reasonable, cost-based fees for a copy of your personal and medical information, for mailing the copy to you, and for preparing any summary or explanation of your personal and medical information you request. Contact our Privacy Office for information about our fees.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to a list of instances in which we disclose your personal and medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations, as authorized by you, and for certain other activities.

We will provide you with information about each accountable disclosure that we made during the period for which you request the accounting, except we are not obligated to account for a disclosure that occurred more than 6 years before the date of your request. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month

period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to your additional requests. Contact our Privacy Office for information about our fees.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your personal and medical information. We may deny your request only for certain reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you a written explanation. If we accept your request, we will make your amendment part of your information and use reasonable efforts to inform others of the amendment who we know may have and rely on the unamended information to your detriment, as well as persons you want to receive the amendment.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we restrict our use or disclosure of your personal and medical information for treatment, payment or health care operations, or with family, friends or others you identify. We are not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we will abide by our agreement, except in a medical emergency or as required or authorized by law. Any agreement we may make to a request for restriction must be in writing signed by a person authorized to bind us to such an agreement.

Confidential Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your personal and medical information in confidence by means or to locations that you specify. You must make

your request in writing, and your request must represent that the information could endanger you if it is not communicated in confidence as you request.

We will accommodate your request if it is reasonable, specifies the means or location for communicating with you, and continues to permit us to collect premiums and pay claims under your health plan. Please note that an explanation of benefits and other information that we issue to the subscriber about health care that you received for which you did not request confidential communications, or about health care received by the

subscriber or by others covered by the health plan in which you participate, may contain sufficient information to reveal that you obtained health care for which we paid, even though you requested that we communicate with you about that health care in confidence.

Breach Notification: In the event of breach of your unsecured personal and health information, we will provide you notification of such a breach as required by law or where we otherwise deem appropriate.

Complaint

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your personal and medical information, about amending your personal and medical information, about restricting our use or disclosure of your personal and medical information, or about how we communicate with you about your personal and medical information, you may complain to our Privacy Office.

You also may submit a written complaint to the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, HHH Building, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may contact the Office for Civil Rights' Hotline at 1-800-368-1019 or e-mail ocrmail@hhs.gov. We support your right to the privacy of your personal and medical information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.