Provider communication
General information and system updates

January 11, 2024

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Notice for 2024

Applicable to: Mercy Care Complete Care, Mercy Care ACC-RBHA, Mercy Care Long Term Care, Mercy Care DD, Mercy Care DCS CHP and Mercy Care Advantage

Did you know that while the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) prevents sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge, it was actually intended to facilitate **safe and secure** sharing of information? Healthcare providers and health plans are permitted to use and disclose PHI without the individual's authorization for treatment, payment, and healthcare operations. HIPAA also allows healthcare organizations to share PHI to develop clinical guidelines, improve outcomes for certain populations, or develop protocols. HIPAA provides many pathways for permissibly exchanging PHI, which are commonly referred to as HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures. The links below provide more information about types of Permitted Uses:

- **HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Health Care Operation [PDF - 673 KB] | Versión en Español**
- **HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Health Oversight Activities [PDF - 750 KB] | Versión en Español**
- **HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Treatment [PDF - 732 KB] | Versión en Español**
- **HIPAA Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Exchange for Public Health Activities [PDF - 921 KB]**

Timely exchange of information and sharing feedback between providers that treat the same member is of particular importance, to ensure that the member's entire care team is informed and kept up to date. This includes data sharing amongst primary care providers and specialists, such as vision providers and behavioral health clinicians, among others. Resources such as Contexture, the Arizona state Health Information Exchange (HIE) can support this process, as it "allows delivery of the right health information to the right place at the right time, provider safer, more timely and efficient patient-centered care[1]".

https://contexture.org/hie-main/

As always, don't hesitate to contact your Mercy Care **Network Management Representative** with any questions or comments. You can find this **Notice** and all other provider notices on our Mercy Care website.

Thanks for all you do!

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