



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20420

September 9, 2019

Dear Veteran:

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is providing an updated copy of the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. You are receiving this Notice because you have been identified by VHA as a Veteran enrolled or eligible to enroll for VA health care benefits as of August 8, 2019 even if you have not received care from VA. You may have received this Notice even if you are ineligible for VA health care benefits.

This Notice explains your patient privacy rights, identifies uses and disclosures of your protected health information, and includes other important privacy-related information. VHA only uses and shares your health information as outlined in the Notice as allowed under Federal privacy laws and regulations.

There is a modification to the Notice VHA wishes to call to your attention. Specifically, in the Treatment section of the Notice it describes how VHA may now communicate without your authorization your health information through health information exchanges (HIE) with non-VHA providers for them to treat you. This would include any occupational health information as well, if you are a VHA employee. If you do not wish VHA to share your health information with non-VHA providers through HIEs for your treatment and care, you will need to submit the "Opt-Out of Sharing Protected Health Information Through Health Information Exchanges" form to opt out. Visit www.va.gov/vler or contact your Release of Information (ROI) Department at the VA facility where you receive care for more information on how to opt out of HIE sharing for your treatment by non-VHA providers.

For privacy complaints or privacy concerns regarding your health information, please contact your VA treatment facility's Privacy Officer or the VHA Privacy Office as indicated in the attached Notice.

If you have any general questions about the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices, please contact the Health Eligibility Center (HEC), Enrollment Case Management at 1-800-983-0936, Monday-Friday, 8am – 8pm ET, or your VA treatment facility's Privacy Officer.

VHA thanks you for your service and looks forward to continuing to serve your health care needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie H. Griffin".

Stephanie H. Griffin, J.D., RHIA
National VHA Privacy Officer