

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL**

**NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES
Substance Abuse Programs**

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL AND DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED, AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.

Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) is required to abide by the terms of this notice. The medical information we maintain may come from any of the providers from whom you have received services. The medical information we record and maintain is known as Protected Health Information, or PHI. We will not use or disclose your PHI without your permission, except as described in this notice.

Information regarding your healthcare, including payment for healthcare, is protected by two federal laws: the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. §1320d *et seq.*, 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 & 164, and the Confidentiality Law, 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2, 42 C.F.R. Part 2. Under these laws, CVH may not say to a person outside CVH that you attend the program, nor may CVH disclose any information identifying you as an alcohol or drug abuser, or disclose any other PHI except as permitted by federal law.

We reserve the right to change our practices and to make the new provisions effective for all medical information we maintain. Should our medical information practices change, we will amend this notice and post a notice of the changes, which will be made available to anyone upon request. This notice is effective as of April 14, 2003.

USES AND DISCLOSURES:

CVH must obtain your written consent before it can disclose information about you for payment purposes. Generally, you must also sign a written authorization before CVH can share information for treatment purposes or for healthcare operations. However, federal law permits CVH to disclose information **without** your written permission for the following:

- Pursuant to an agreement with a person or agency that provides services to CVH.
- For research, audit or evaluation.
- To report a crime committed on CVH premises or against CVH personnel.
- To medical personnel in a medical emergency.
- To appropriate authorities to report suspected child abuse or neglect.
- As allowed by a court order.

Before CVH can use or disclose any information about your health in a manner which is not described above, it must first obtain your specific written authorization allowing it to make the disclosure. You may revoke any such written authorization in writing, except to the extent that we have already acted on it.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS? YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- Request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your Protected Health Information (PHI).
- Receive reasonable confidential communication of PHI, e.g. contact you at a place of your choosing.
- Inspect and copy your medical record by written request, with some exceptions. CVH reserves the right to deny the request, to which you may make a further appeal.
- Request an amendment of your medical record. CVH reserves the right to deny the request, to which you may make a further appeal.
- Receive an accounting of CVH disclosures of your PHI during the six years prior to your request. Accountings of disclosures start as of April 14, 2003 and are unavailable prior to that time.
- Receive a paper copy of this notice.

HOW YOU CAN REPORT A PROBLEM?

If you feel your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the CVH Privacy Officer at (860) 262-7112, the State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Office of Healthcare Information (OHI) at (860) 418-6901, or the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at: U.S. DHHS, OCR, J.F. Kennedy Federal Building – Room 1875, Boston, Massachusetts 02203. Voice phone: (617) 565-1340. TDD: (617) 565-1343. FAX: (617) 565-3809.

There will be no retaliation for filing a complaint.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have questions and would like more information, you may contact the CVH Privacy Officer at (860) 262-7112, or the DMHAS Office of Healthcare Information (OHI) at (860) 418-6901.