PATIENT PRIVACY NOTICE

Biologics by McKesson

Notice of Privacy Practices

Effective Date: June 1, 2019

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

About us

In this Notice, we use terms like “we,” “us” or “our” to refer to Biologics and its pharmacists, employees, staff and other personnel. All the sites and locations of Biologics by McKesson follow the terms of this Notice and may share health information with each other for treatment, payment or healthcare operations purposes as well as for other purposes as described in this Notice.

Purpose of this notice

This Notice describes how we may use and disclose your health information to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations and for other purposes permitted or required by law. This Notice also outlines our legal duties for protecting the privacy of your health information and explains your rights to have your health information protected. We’ll create a record of the information we maintain about you and use or disclose it as described in this Notice.

We will maintain this information to ensure that you receive quality care and to meet certain legal requirements related to providing you care. We understand that your health information is personal, and we’re committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring that your health information isn’t used inappropriately.

Our responsibilities

We are required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information and to provide you notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your health information. We’re also required to notify you of a breach of your unsecured health information. We’ll abide by the terms of this Notice.

How we may use or disclose your health information

The following categories describe examples of the way we use and disclose health information without your written authorization:

For treatment:
We will use and disclose your health information to provide you with medical treatment or services. For example, we will contact you regarding medications, therapeutic substitution (e.g., the availability of generic products), counseling and drug utilization review (DUR), product recalls, refill reminders, or disease-state management. We will disclose your health information to another pharmacist or to your physician for the purpose of a consultation. We will use and disclose your health information to contact you as a reminder that you have a refill due. Please let us know if you don’t wish to have us contact you concerning your refill or if you wish to have us use a different telephone number or address to contact you for this purpose.

We may mail you information about your health. Examples are information about living with complex diseases or information about managed care.

For payment:
We may use and disclose your health information to others so they will pay us or reimburse you for your treatment. For example, a bill may be sent to you, your insurance company, pharmacy benefits manager or another third-party payer. The bill may contain information that identifies you, your diagnosis, and treatment or prescription medication used in the course of treatment. We may tell your health plan about a prescription medication you’re going to receive to obtain prior approval or to determine whether your health plan will cover the prescription medication.

For healthcare operations:
We may use and disclose your health information in order to support our business activities. These uses and disclosures are necessary to run Biologics and make sure our patients receive quality care. For example, we may use your health information for quality-assessment activities, reviewing the competence and qualifications of the pharmacists providing treatment to you, and for other essential activities.

We may also disclose your health information to third-party “business associates” that perform various services on our behalf, such as auditing, legal, billing and collection services. In these cases, we’ll enter into a written agreement with the business associate to ensure they protect the privacy of your health information.

Individuals involved in your care or payment for your care and notification:

If you verbally agree to the use or disclosure of your health information, we may use and disclose your health information without your authorization for the following purposes:

• We may disclose to your family and friends (and anyone else whom you identify who is involved in your medical care or who helps pay for your care) health information relevant to that person’s involvement in your care or paying for your care. We may also make these disclosures after your death.
• We may use or disclose your information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, personal representative or any other person responsible for your care regarding your physical location within Biologics, your general condition or in the event of your death.
• We may also use or disclose your health information to disaster-relief organizations so that your family or other persons responsible for your care can be notified about your condition, status and location.

We’re also allowed, to the extent permitted by applicable law, to use and disclose your health information without your authorization for the following purposes:

As required by law:
We may use and disclose your health information when required to do so by federal, state or local law.

Judicial and administrative proceedings:
If you’re involved in a legal proceeding, we may disclose your health information in response to a court or administrative order. We may also release your health information in response to a subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute — but only if efforts have been made to tell you about the request or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.

Health oversight activities:
We may use and disclose your health information to health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law. These oversight activities are necessary for the government to monitor the healthcare system, government benefit programs, compliance with government regulatory programs and compliance with civil rights laws.
Law enforcement: We may disclose your health information, within limitations, to law enforcement officials for several different purposes:
  • To comply with a court order, warrant, subpoena, summons or other similar process;
  • To identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person;
  • About the victim of a crime, if the victim agrees, or we’re unable to obtain the victim’s agreement;
  • About a death we suspect may have resulted from criminal conduct;
  • About criminal conduct we believe in good faith to have occurred on our premises; and
  • To report a crime not occurring on our premises; the nature of a crime; the location of a crime; and the identity, description, and location of the individual who committed the crime, in an emergency situation.

Public health activities: We may use and disclose your health information for public health activities, including the following:
  • To prevent or control disease, injury or disability;
  • To report births or deaths;
  • To report child abuse or neglect;
  • Activities related to the quality, safety or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products;
  • To notify a person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition as authorized by law; and
  • To notify an employer of findings concerning work-related illness or injury or general medical surveillance that the employer needs to comply with the law if you are provided notice of such disclosure.

Serious threat to health or safety: If there is a serious threat to your health and safety, or the health and safety of the public or another person, we may use and disclose your health information to someone able to help prevent the threat or as necessary for law enforcement authorities to identify or apprehend an individual.

Organ/tissue donation: If you’re an organ donor, we may use and disclose your health information to organizations that handle procurement, transplantation or banking of organs, eyes or tissues.

Coroners, medical examiners and funeral directors: We may use and disclose health information to organizations that handle procurement, transplantation or banking of organs, eyes or tissues.

Workers’ compensation: We may disclose your health information as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws related to workers’ compensation or similar programs that provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.

Victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence: We may disclose health information to the appropriate government authority if we believe a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect or domestic violence. We’ll only make this disclosure if you agree, or when required or authorized by law.

Military and veterans activities: If you’re a member of the Armed Forces, we may disclose your health information to military command authorities. Health information about foreign military personnel may be disclosed to foreign military authorities.

National security and intelligence activities: We may disclose your health information to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective services for the president and others: We may disclose your health information to authorized federal officials, so they may provide protective services for the president and others, including foreign heads of state.

Inmates: If you’re an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose your health information to the correctional institution or law enforcement official to assist them in providing your healthcare; protecting your health and safety, or the health and safety of others; or for the safety of the correctional institution.

Research: We may use and disclose your health information for certain research activities without your written authorization. For example, we might use some of your health information to decide if we have enough patients to conduct a research study. For certain research activities, an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Privacy Board may approve uses and disclosures of your health information without your authorization.

Other uses and disclosures of your health information that require written authorization: Other uses and disclosures of your health information not covered by this Notice will be made only with your written authorization. Some examples include:
  • Psychotherapy notes: We usually do not maintain psychotherapy notes about you. If we do, we will only use and disclose them with your written authorization, except in limited situations.
  • Marketing: We may only use and disclose your health information for marketing purposes with your written authorization. This would include making treatment communications to you when we receive a financial benefit for doing so.
  • Sale of your health information: We may sell your health information only with your written authorization.

If you authorize us to use or disclose your health information, you may revoke your authorization, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your authorization, we will no longer use or disclose your health information as specified by your revocation, except to the extent that we have taken action in reliance on your authorization.

Your rights regarding your health information
You have the following rights regarding the health information we maintain about you:

Right to request restrictions: You have the right to request restrictions on how we use and disclose your health information for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. In most circumstances, we’re not required to agree to your request. If we do agree, we’ll comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment. To request restrictions, you must make your request in writing and submit it to Biologics by McKesson, c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380. We’re required to agree to a request that we restrict a disclosure made to a health plan for payment or healthcare operations purposes that is not otherwise required by law, if you, or someone other than the health plan on your behalf, paid for the service or item in question out-of-pocket in full.
Right to request confidential communications: You have the right to request that we communicate with you in a certain manner or at a certain location, regarding the services you receive from us. For example, you may ask that we only contact you at work or only by mail. To request confidential communications, you must make your request in writing and submit it to Biologics by McKesson, c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will attempt to accommodate all reasonable requests.

Right to inspect and copy: You have the right to inspect and copy health information that may be used to make decisions about your care. To inspect and copy your health information, you must make your request in writing by filling out the appropriate form provided by us and submitting it to Biologics by McKesson, c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380.

You may request access to your medical information in a certain electronic form and format if readily producible or, if not readily producible, in a mutually agreeable electronic form and format. Further, you may request in writing that we transmit a copy of your health information to any person or entity you designate. Your written, signed request must clearly identify such designated person or entity and where you would like us to send the copy. If you request a copy of your health information, we may charge a cost-based fee for the labor, supplies and postage required to meet your request.

We may deny your request to inspect and copy in certain limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed by a licensed health care professional chosen by us. The person conducting the review will not be the person who denied your request. We will comply with the outcome of the review.

Right to amend: If you feel that your health information is incorrect or incomplete, you may request that we amend your information. You have the right to request an amendment for as long as the information is kept by or for us. To request an amendment, you must make your request in writing by filling out the appropriate form, provided by us, and submitting it to Biologics by McKesson, c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380.

We may deny your request for an amendment. If this occurs, you will be notified of the reason for the denial and given the opportunity to file a written statement of disagreement with us that will become part of your medical record.

Right to an accounting of disclosures: You have the right to request an accounting of disclosures we make of your health information. Please note that certain disclosures need not be included in the accounting we provide to you.

To request an accounting of disclosures, you must make your request in writing by filling out the appropriate form, provided by us, and submitting it to Biologics by McKesson, c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380. Your request must state a time period which may not be longer than six years, and which may not include dates before April 14, 2003. The first accounting you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional accountings, we may charge you for the costs of providing the accounting. We will notify you of the costs involved and give you an opportunity to withdraw or modify your request before any costs have been incurred.

Right to a paper copy of this Notice: You have the right to a paper copy of this Notice at any time, even if you previously agreed to receive this Notice electronically. To obtain a paper copy of this Notice, please contact Biologics by McKesson at 800.856.1984. You may also obtain a paper copy of this Notice at our website, https://www.biologicsinc.com/privacy-practices.

Changes to this Notice
We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the new Notice provisions effective for all health information we currently maintain, as well as any health information we receive in the future. If we make material or important changes to our privacy practices, we’ll promptly revise our Notice. We’ll post a copy of the current Notice at our location. Each version of the Notice will have an effective date listed on the first page. Updates to this Notice are also available at our website, https://www.biologicsinc.com/privacy-practices.

Complaints
If you have any questions about this Notice or would like to file a complaint about our privacy practices, please direct your inquiries to: Biologics by McKesson., c/o McKesson, Attn: HIPAA Privacy Officer, 10101 Woodloch Forest, The Woodlands, TX 77380 or SpecialtyCompliance@McKesson.com. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. You will not be retaliated against or penalized for filing a complaint.

Questions
If you have questions about this Notice, please contact the HIPAA Privacy Officer at SpecialtyCompliance@McKesson.com.