



East Adams Rural Healthcare

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NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES **Effective Date: February 16, 2026**

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.

OUR LEGAL DUTIES

East Adams Rural Healthcare ("EARH") is required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information ("PHI"), to provide you with this Notice of Privacy Practices, and to follow the terms of this Notice currently in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice and to make the new Notice effective for all PHI we maintain. If we make a material change, the revised Notice will be made available at our facilities and on our website.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Marra Schmierer the Privacy Officer at 509-659-1200 ext. 1307.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

The following categories describe the different ways we may use and disclose PHI without your written authorization. Not every use or disclosure is listed.

Treatment

We may use and disclose PHI to provide, coordinate, or manage your health care and related services, including sharing information among health care professionals and with other providers involved in your treatment.

Payment

We may use and disclose PHI to bill and collect payment for the services you receive, including billing you, your health plan, or other payers.

Health Care Operations

We may use and disclose PHI for health care operations such as quality improvement, credentialing, auditing, accreditation, and administrative activities.

Business Associates

We may disclose PHI to business associates that perform services on our behalf and who are required to protect the privacy of your PHI.

Family, Friends, and Others Involved in Your Care

We may disclose PHI to persons involved in your care or payment for care unless you object.

Hospital Directory

If you are an inpatient, limited information may be included in our facility directory unless you object.

Appointment Reminders and Health-Related Communications

We may contact you to remind you of appointments or provide information about treatment alternatives.

Fundraising

We may use limited PHI to contact you for fundraising. You may opt out at any time by contacting EARH at 509-659-1200.

As Required or Permitted by Law

We may use or disclose PHI as required or permitted by law, including for public health, oversight, law enforcement, judicial proceedings, workers' compensation, research, and to prevent serious threats.

Health Information Exchanges and Shared Electronic Records

We may maintain PHI in shared electronic systems and participate in health information exchanges.

SPECIAL PROTECTIONS FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) RECORDS

Some health information may be subject to additional protections under federal law, including 42 CFR Part 2, which applies to certain substance use disorder (SUD) treatment records. If East Adams Rural Healthcare creates or maintains records that are protected by 42 CFR Part 2, the following additional rules apply:

- Stricter Limits on Use and Disclosure: Unlike other protected health information, SUD records generally may not be used or disclosed for treatment, payment, or health care operations without your specific written consent, except as permitted by 42 CFR Part 2 or as otherwise required by law.
- Use in Legal or Government Proceedings: Substance use disorder treatment records received from programs subject to 42 CFR Part 2, or testimony relaying the content of such records, may not be used or disclosed in civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings against you unless you provide written consent or a court issues an order after notice and an opportunity to be heard, as required by 42 CFR Part 2. Any court order must be accompanied by a subpoena or other legal requirement compelling disclosure before the records are used or disclosed.
- More Restrictive Laws Apply: When other federal or state laws provide greater privacy protections than HIPAA (including 42 CFR Part 2), East Adams Rural Healthcare will follow the more protective law.

If applicable, required notice under 42 CFR Part 2 may be provided within this Notice or through a separate patient notice, as permitted by law.

USES AND DISCLOSURES THAT REQUIRE YOUR WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION

Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes, marketing uses, and disclosures constituting a sale of PHI require your written authorization. Other uses not described will be made only with your authorization.

YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

- Access and copies of your records
- Electronic access and third-party direction
- Requesting restrictions, including self-pay insurance restrictions
- Requesting confidential communications
- Amendment of records
- Accounting of disclosures
- Paper copy of this Notice

- Notification of breaches of unsecured PHI

REDISCLOSURE NOTICE

Information disclosed pursuant to this Notice or the HIPAA Privacy Rule may be subject to redisclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by HIPAA. However, information protected by 42 CFR Part 2 may remain subject to redisclosure restrictions under that law.

COMPLAINTS AND NON-RETALIATION

You may file a complaint with EARH or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. EARH will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marra Schmierer Privacy Officer
East Adams Rural Healthcare
Phone: 509-659-1200 ext. 1307

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

We will make a good-faith effort to obtain written acknowledgment that you received this Notice. Receipt of this Notice is not a condition of treatment.