



**COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE  
POST OFFICE DRAWER 1228  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29901-1228  
Phone: 843-255-5368 Fax: 843-525-4032**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (BCEMS) POLICY NOTICE**

Beaufort County Emergency Medical Services (**BCEMS**) is required by law to maintain the privacy of certain confidential health care information, known as Protected Health Information (PHI), and to provide you with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to your PHI. BCEMS is also required to abide by the terms of the version of the Notice currently in effect.

**Uses and Disclosures of PHI:** BCEMS may use PHI for the purpose of treatment, payment, and health care operations, in most cases without your written permission. Examples of our use of your PHI:

**For treatment:** This includes such things as obtaining verbal and written information about your medical condition and treatment from you as well as from others, such as doctors and nurses who give orders to allow us to provide treatment to you. We may give your PHI to other health care providers involved in your treatment, and may transfer your PHI via radio or telephone to the hospital or dispatch center.

**For payment:** This includes any activities we must undertake in order to get reimbursed for the services we provide to you, including such things as submitting bills to insurance companies, making medical necessity determinations and collecting outstanding accounts.

**For health care operations:** This includes quality assurance activities, licensing, and training programs to ensure that our personnel meet our standards of care and follow established policies and procedures, as well as certain other management functions.

**SUD Treatment Information.** We may receive or maintain substance use disorder (“SUD”) treatment records that originate from certain programs or activities related to substance abuse education, prevention, training, treatment, rehabilitation, or research that are protected under 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (“Part 2 Program”). If we receive or maintain your records from a Part 2 Program pursuant to a general consent that you provided to the Part 2 Program authorizing use and disclosure of your Part 2 Program records for purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations, we may use and disclose those records for treatment, payment, and health care operations as otherwise described in this Notice, subject to the same rights, restrictions, and protections. If, however, we receive or maintain your Part 2 Program records pursuant to a specific written consent that you provided to us or to another third party, we will use and disclose those records only to the extent expressly permitted by that consent. Any SUD record protected health information that was disclosed may be subject to redisclosure. We will not use or disclose your Part 2 Program records, or testify or provide evidence describing the information contained in those records, in any civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceeding conducted by any federal, state, or local authority against you, unless such use or disclosure is expressly authorized by your written consent or by a court order issued after notice to you.

**Use and Disclosures of PHI Without Your Authorization:** BCEMS is permitted to use PHI without your written authorization, or opportunity to object, in certain situations, and unless prohibited by a more stringent state law, including:

- For the treatment, payment or health care operations activities of another health care provider who treats you;
- For health care and legal compliance activities;
- To a family member, other relative, or close personal friend or other individual involved in your care if we obtain your verbal agreements to do so or if we give you an opportunity to object to such a disclosure and you do not raise an objection, and in certain other circumstances where we are unable to obtain your agreement and believe the disclosure is in your best interests;
- To a public health authority in certain situations as required by law (such as to report abuse, neglect or domestic violence);
- For health oversight activities including audits or government investigations, inspections, disciplinary proceedings, and other administrative or judicial actions undertaken by the government (or their contractors) by law to oversee the health care system;
- For judicial and administrative proceeding as required by a court or administrative order, or in some cases in response to a subpoena or other legal process;
- For law enforcement activities in limited situations, such as when responding to a warrant;
- For military, national defense and security and other special government functions;
- To avert a serious threat to the health and safety of a person or the public at large;
- For workers’ compensation purposes, and in compliance with workers’ compensation laws;

