



PRIVACY PRACTICES NOTICE

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. THE PRIVACY OF YOUR MEDICAL INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Our Legal Duty

We are required by applicable federal and state law to maintain the privacy of your medical information and to notify you if there is a breach of your health information. We are also required to give you this notice about our privacy practices, our legal duties, and your rights concerning your medical information. We must follow the privacy practices that are described in this notice while it is in effect. This notice takes effect August 26, 2016, and will remain in effect until we replace it.

We reserve the right to change our privacy practices and the terms of this notice at any time, provided such changes are permitted by applicable law. We reserve the right to make the changes in our privacy practices and the new terms of our notice effective for all medical information that we maintain, including medical information we created or received before we made the changes. Before we make a significant change in our privacy practices, we will change this notice and send the new notice to our health plan contract holders at the time of the change.

You may request a copy of our notice at any time. For more information about our privacy practices, or for additional copies of this notice, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice.

Organizations Covered by this Notice

This notice applies to the privacy practices of the group health plans, health insurers and HMO listed below. These organizations are each participants in an organized health care arrangement. As such, we may share your medical information and the medical information of others we service with each other as needed for the payment activities or health care operations relating to our organized health care arrangement.

- Wellmark, Inc., doing business as Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa
- Wellmark of South Dakota, Inc., doing business as Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota
- Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc.
- Wellmark Synergy Health, Inc.
- Wellmark Value Health Plan, Inc.
- Wellmark, Inc. Employee Health Care Plan
- Wellmark, Inc. Retiree Health and Life Plan
- Wellmark, Inc. Employee Assistance Program

Uses and Disclosures of Medical Information

We use and disclose medical information about you for treatment, payment, and health care operations. For example:

Treatment: We may use or disclose your medical information to a physician or other health care provider in order to provide treatment to you.

Payment: We may use and disclose your medical information to pay claims from physicians, hospitals and other providers for services delivered to you that are covered by your health plan, to determine your eligibility for benefits, to coordinate benefits, to examine medical necessity, to obtain premiums, to issue explanations of benefits to the person enrolled in the health plan in which you participate, and the like. We may disclose your medical information to a health care provider or entity subject to the federal Privacy Rules so they can obtain payment or engage in these payment activities.

Health Care Operations: We may use and disclose your medical information in connection with our health care operations. Health care operations include:

- Rating our risk and determining our premiums for your health plan;
- Quality assessment and improvement activities;
- Reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, conducting training programs, accreditation, certification, licensing or credentialing activities;
- Medical review, legal services, and auditing, including fraud and abuse detection and compliance;
- Business planning and development; and
- Business management and general administrative activities, including management activities relating to privacy, customer service, resolution of internal grievances, and creating de-identified medical information or a limited data set.

We may disclose your medical information to another entity that has a relationship with you and is subject to the federal Privacy Rules, for their health care operations relating to quality assessment and improvement activities, reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, or detecting or preventing health care fraud and abuse.

On Your Authorization: You may give us written authorization to use your medical information or to disclose it to anyone for any purpose. If you give us an authorization, you may revoke it in writing at any time. Your revocation will not affect any use or disclosures permitted by your authorization while it was in effect. Unless you give us a written authorization, we cannot sell your medical information and we cannot use or disclose your medical information for marketing purposes or for any reason except those described in this notice.

To Your Family and Friends: We may disclose your medical information to a family member, friend or other person to the extent necessary to help with your health care or with payment for your health care. We may use or disclose your name, location, and general condition or death to notify, or assist in the notification of (including identifying or locating), a person involved in your care.

Before we disclose your medical information to a person involved in your health care or payment for your health care, we will provide you with an opportunity to object to such uses or disclosures. If you are not present, or in the event of your incapacity or an emergency, we will disclose your medical information based on our professional judgment of whether the disclosure would be in your best interest.

Your Employer or Organization Sponsoring Your Group Health Plan: If you are a member of a group health plan, we may disclose your medical information and the medical information of others enrolled in your group health plan to the employer or other organization that sponsors your group health plan to permit the plan sponsor to perform plan administration functions. Please see your group health plan document for a full explanation of the limited uses and disclosures that the plan sponsor may make of your medical information in providing plan administration.

We may also disclose summary information about the members in your group health plan to the plan sponsor to use to obtain premium bids for the health insurance coverage offered through your group health plan or to decide whether to modify, amend or terminate your group health plan. The summary information we may disclose summarizes claims history, claims expenses, or types of claims experienced by the members in your group health plan. The summary information will be stripped of demographic information about the members in the group health plan, but the plan sponsor may still be able to identify you or other members in your group health plan from the summary information.

Underwriting: We may receive your medical information for underwriting, premium rating or other activities relating to the creation, renewal or replacement of a contract of health insurance or health benefits. Wellmark is prohibited from using or disclosing your genetic information for underwriting purposes. We will not use or further disclose this medical information for any other purpose, except as required by law, unless the contract of health insurance or health benefits is placed with us. In that case, our use and disclosure of your medical information will only be as described in this notice.

Disaster Relief: We may use or disclose your medical information to a public or private entity authorized by law or by its charter to assist in disaster relief efforts.

Public Benefit: We may use or disclose your medical information as authorized by law for the following purposes deemed to be in the public interest or benefit:

- As required by law;
- For public health activities, including disease and vital statistic reporting, child abuse reporting, FDA oversight, and to employers regarding work-related illness or injury;
- To report adult abuse, neglect, or domestic violence;
- To health oversight agencies;
- In response to court and administrative orders and other lawful processes;
- To law enforcement officials pursuant to subpoenas and other lawful processes, concerning crime victims, suspicious deaths, crimes on our premises, reporting crimes in emergencies, and for purposes of identifying or locating a suspect or other person;
- To coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors;
- To organ procurement organizations;
- To avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- In connection with certain research activities;
- To the military and to federal officials for lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and national security activities;
- To correctional institutions regarding inmates; and
- As authorized by state worker's compensation laws.

Health Related Services: We may use your medical information to contact you with information about health-related benefits and services or about treatment alternatives that may be of interest to you. We may disclose your medical information to a business associate to assist us in these activities.

We may use or disclose your medical information to encourage you to purchase or use a product or service by face-to-face communication or to provide you with promotional gifts.

Individual Rights

Access: You have the right to look at or get copies of your medical information, with limited exceptions. You may request that we provide copies in a format other than photocopies. We will use the format you request unless we cannot practicably do so. You must make a request in writing to obtain access to your medical information. You may obtain a form to request access by using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. You may also request access by sending us a letter to the address at the end of this notice. If you request copies, we will charge you a cost-based fee for staff time to locate and copy your medical information, and postage if you want the copies mailed to you. If you request an alternative format, we will charge a cost-based fee for providing your medical information in that format. If you prefer, we will prepare a summary or an explanation of your medical information for a fee. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

Disclosure Accounting: You have the right to receive a list of instances in which we or our business associates disclosed your medical information for purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations, as authorized by you, and for certain other activities, for up to six (6) years after the record is created. We will provide you with the date on which we made the disclosure, the name of the person or entity to whom we disclosed your medical information, a description of the medical information we disclosed, the reason for the disclosure, and certain other information. If you request this accounting more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for responding to these additional requests. Contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice for a full explanation of our fee structure.

Restriction: You have the right to request that we place additional restrictions on our use or disclosure of your medical information. We are not required to agree to these additional restrictions, but if we do, we will abide by our agreement (except in an emergency). Any agreement to additional restrictions must be in writing signed by a person authorized to make such an agreement on our behalf. We will not be bound unless our agreement is so memorialized in writing.

Confidential Communication: You have the right to request that we communicate with you about your medical information by alternative means or to alternative locations. You must make your request in writing, and you must state that the information could endanger you if it is not communicated in confidence as you request. We must accommodate your request if it is reasonable, specifies the alternative means or location, and continues to permit us to collect premiums and pay claims under your health plan, including issuance of explanations of benefits to the contract holder

of the health plan in which you participate. An explanation of benefits issued to the contract holder for health care that you received for which you did not request confidential communications or about the contract holder or others covered by the health plan in which you participate may contain sufficient information to reveal that you obtained healthcare for which we paid, even though you requested that we communicate with you about that health care in confidence.

Amendment: You have the right to request that we amend your medical information. Your request must be in writing, and it must explain why the information should be amended. We may deny your request if we did not create the information you want amended and the originator remains available or for certain other reasons. If we deny your request, we will provide you a written explanation. You may respond with a statement of disagreement to be appended to the information you wanted amended. If we accept your request to amend the information, we will make reasonable efforts to inform others, including people you name, of the amendment and to include the changes in any future disclosures of that information.

Electronic Notice: If you receive this notice on our web site or by electronic mail (e-mail), you are entitled to receive this notice in written form. Please contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice to obtain this notice in written form.

Breach Notification: In the event of a breach of your unsecured health information, we will provide you notification of such a breach, as required by law.

Questions and Complaints

If you want more information about our privacy practices or have questions or concerns, please contact us using the information listed at the end of this notice.

If you are concerned that we may have violated your privacy rights, or you disagree with a decision we made about access to your medical information or in response to a request you made to amend or restrict the use or disclosure of your medical information or to have us communicate with you by alternative means or at alternative locations, you may complain to us using the contact information listed at the end of this notice. You also may submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will provide you with the address to file your complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services upon request.

We support your right to the privacy of your medical information. We will not retaliate in any way if you choose to file a complaint with us or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Contact Office:

Mailing Address:

Wellmark, Inc.
Privacy Office, Station 5W590
1331 Grand Avenue
Des Moines IA 50309-2901

Telephone:

877-610-6395 Outside Des Moines Area
515-376-5850 Des Moines Local Area

Email:

privacyoffice@wellmark.com

Web Site:

www.wellmark.com

Required Federal Accessibility and Nondiscrimination Notice



Discrimination is against the law

Wellmark complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. Wellmark does not exclude people or treat them differently because of their race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Wellmark provides:

- Free aids and services to people with disabilities so they may communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, call 800-524-9242.

If you believe that Wellmark has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance with: Wellmark Civil Rights Coordinator, 1331 Grand Avenue, Station 5W189, Des Moines, IA 50309-2901, 515-376-4500, TTY 888-781-4262, Fax 515-376-9073, Email CRC@Wellmark.com. You can file a grievance in person, by mail, fax or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Wellmark Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you. You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail, phone or fax at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue S.W., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington DC 20201, 800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD).

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, los servicios de asistencia de idiomas se encuentran disponibles gratuitamente para usted. Comuníquese al 800-524-9242 o al (TTY: 888-781-4262).

注意：如果您说普通话，我们可免费为您提供语言协助服务。请拨打 800-524-9242 或（听障专线：888-781-4262）。

CHÚ Ý: Nếu quý vị nói tiếng Việt, các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí có sẵn cho quý vị. Xin hãy liên hệ 800-524-9242 hoặc (TTY: 888-781-4262).

NAPOMENA: Ako govorite hrvatski, dostupna Vam je besplatna podrška na Vašem jeziku. Kontaktirajte 800-524-9242 ili (tekstualni telefon za osobe oštećena sluha: 888-781-4262).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose sprachliche Assistenzdienste zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 800-524-9242 oder (TTY: 888-781-4262).

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإننا نوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية، المجانية. اتصل بالرقم 800-524-9242 أو (خدمة الهاتف النصي: 888-781-4262).

ສິ່ງຄວນເອົາໃຈໃສ່, ພາສາລາວ ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າ: ພວກເຮົາມີບໍລິການຄວາມຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ ໃຫ້ທ່ານໂດຍບໍ່ເສຍຄ່າ ຫຼື 800-524-9242 ຕິດຕໍ່ທີ. (TTY: 888-781-4262.)

주의: 한국어 를 사용하시는 경우, 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 이용하실 수 있습니다. 800-524-9242번 또는 (TTY: 888-781-4262)번으로 연락해 주십시오.

ध्यान रखें : अगर आपकी भाषा हिन्दी है, तो आपके लिए भाषा सहायता सेवाएँ, नि:शुल्क उपलब्ध हैं। 800-524-9242 पर संपर्क करें या (TTY: 888-781-4262)।

ATTENTION : si vous parlez français, des services d'assistance dans votre langue sont à votre disposition gratuitement. Appelez le 800 524 9242 (ou la ligne ATS au 888 781 4262).

Geb Acht: Wann du Deutsch schwetze duscht, kannscht du Hilf in dei eegni Schprooch koschdefrei griege. Ruf 800-524-9242 oder (TTY: 888-781-4262) uff.

โปรดทราบ: หากคุณพูด ไทย เรายมีบริการช่วยเหลือด้านภาษาสำหรับคุณโดยไม่คิดค่าใช้จ่าย ติดต่อ 800-524-9242 หรือ (TTY: 888-781-4262)

PAG-UKULAN NG PANSIN: Kung Tagalog ang wikang ginagamit mo, may makukuha kang mga serbisyong tulong sa wika na walang bayad. Makipag-ugnayan sa 800-524-9242 o (TTY: 888-781-4262).

တစ်ခုခုပြောပါ-နောက်တစ်ကြိမ်ကိုတစ်ခါတစ်ရံတစ်ခါတစ်ရံလေးတစ်ခုခုလေးဆိုလားနော်လဲ။ဆေးကျိးဆူ ၈၀၀-၅၂၄-၉၂၄မှတစ်ဆင့်(TTY: ၈၈၈-၇၈၁-၄၂၆)တက်ပါ။

ВНИМАНИЕ! Если ваш родной язык русский, вам могут быть предоставлены бесплатные переводческие услуги. Обращайтесь 800-524-9242 (телетайп: 888-781-4262).

सावधान: यदि तपाईं नेपाली बोल्नुहुन्छ भने, तपाईंका लागि नि:शुल्क रूपमा भाषा सहायता सेवाहरू उपलब्ध गराइन्छ। 800-524-9242 वा (TTY: 888-781-4262) मा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस्।

ማሳሰቢያ: ከማርኛ የሚናገሩ ከሆነ፣ የቋንቋ አገዛ አገልግሎቶች፣ ከክፍያ ነፃ፣ ያገኛሉ። በ 800-524-9242 ወይም (በTTY: 888-781-4262) ደውሎ ያነጋግሩ።

HEETINA To a wolwa Fulfulde laabi walliinde dow wolde, naa e njobdi, ene ngoodi ngam maada. Hebir 800-524-9242 malla (TTY: 888-781-4262).

FUULEFFANNA: Yo isin Oromiffaa, kan dubbattan taatan, tajaajiloonni gargaarsa afaanii, kaffaltii malee, isiniif ni jiru. 800-524-9242 yookin (TTY: 888-781-4262) quunnamaa.

УВАГА! Якщо ви розмовляєте українською мовою, для вас доступні безкоштовні послуги мовної підтримки. Зателефонуйте за номером 800-524-9242 або (телетайп: 888-781-4262).

Ge': Diné k'éhjí yáníłti'go níká bizaad bee áká' adoował, t'áá jiik'é, náhóló. Kojí' hólne' 800-524-9242 doodaii' (TTY: 888-781-4262)