



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

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

WHO WILL FOLLOW THE PRIVACY PRACTICES DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE

This Notice of Privacy Practices (Notice) describes the privacy practices of KDunn and Associates, P.A. DBA HealthQuilt (“HealthQuilt”) and its workforce members (including employees, contractors, physicians, nurses, other licensed or certified personnel, volunteers, and front desk, billing and administrative personnel) who have a need to use your health information to perform their jobs. It also applies to any individuals authorized to enter information into your HealthQuilt record.

If you have any questions about this Notice, please contact HealthQuilt’s Privacy Officer, at: (346) 406-1730.

ABOUT YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

We understand that health information about you and your health is personal, and protecting your health information is important to us. We create a record of the care and services you receive at HealthQuilt. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This Notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by HealthQuilt, whether made by HealthQuilt personnel or other health care providers, whether stored and transmitted electronically or by other means. We are required by law to:

- Maintain the privacy of health information that identifies you (with certain exceptions);
- Give you this Notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to health information we collect and maintain about you; and
- Follow the terms of this Notice that is currently in effect.

HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

The following categories describe different ways that we may use and disclose health information. Not every use or disclosure in a category will be listed. However, all of the ways we are permitted to use and disclose information will fall within one of the categories.

- **DISCLOSURE AT YOUR REQUEST.** We may disclose health information when requested by you. This disclosure at your request may require a written Authorization by you.
- **FOR TREATMENT.** We may use health information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose health information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, students, or other HealthQuilt personnel who are involved in taking care of you at HealthQuilt.
- **FOR PAYMENT.** We may use and disclose health information about you so that the treatment and services you receive at HealthQuilt may be billed to and payment may be collected from you, an insurance company or a third party such as Workers Compensation.
- **FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS.** We may use and disclose health information about you for our health care operations activities. These uses and disclosures are necessary to operate HealthQuilt efficiently and make sure that all of our patients receive quality care.



ADDITIONAL USES AND DISCLOSURES OF HEALTH INFORMATION:

- **AS REQUIRED BY LAW.** We will disclose health information about you when required to do so by federal, state or local laws or regulations.
- **SIGN-IN SHEET.** We may use and disclose health information about you by having you sign in when you arrive at HealthQuilt. We may also call out your name when you are ready to be seen.
- **APPOINTMENT AND PATIENT RECALL REMINDERS.** We may use and disclose your health information to contact you to remind you regarding appointments or for health care that you are to receive.
- **BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.** Some of our functions are accomplished through contracted services provided by Business Associates. A Business Associate may include any individual or entity that receives your health information from us in the course of performing services for HealthQuilt. Such services may include, without limitation, legal, actuarial, accounting, consulting, data aggregation, management, administrative, accreditation or financial services. When these services are contracted, we may disclose your health information to our Business Associates so that they can perform the job we have asked them to do. To protect your health information, however, we require the Business Associate to appropriately safeguard your information.
- **DISASTER RELIEF.** We may disclose information about you to an entity assisting in disaster relief so that your family can be notified about your condition, status and location.
- **FUNDRAISING.** We may use information about you in an effort to raise money for HealthQuilt and its operations. If you do not want HealthQuilt to contact you for fundraising efforts, you must notify HealthQuilt's Privacy Officer, at: (346) 406-1730 and in writing at: 1401 Wirt Road, Ste E2, Houston, TX 77055. Additionally, each fundraising communication will include an opt-out opportunity.
- **HEALTH-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.** We may use and disclose health information to tell you about our health-related products or services that may be of interest to you.
- **FAMILY, FRIENDS, OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN YOUR CARE OR PAYMENT FOR YOUR CARE.** We may disclose your health information to notify or assist in notifying a family member, your personal representative, or another individual involved in or responsible for your health care about your location at HealthQuilt, your general condition, or in the event of your death. We may also disclose information to someone who helps arrange for payment for your care. If you are able and available to agree or to object, we will give you the opportunity to agree or object prior to making these disclosures, although we may disclose this information in the case of a disaster even over your objection if we believe it is necessary to respond to the disaster or emergency situation. If you are unable or unavailable to agree or object, we will use our best judgment in any communication with your family, personal representative, and other involved individuals.
- **RESEARCH.** Under certain circumstances, we may use and disclose health information about you for research purposes. All research projects, however, are subject to a special approval process which evaluates a proposed research project and its use of health information, trying to balance the research needs with patients' need for privacy of their health information. Before we use or disclose health information for research, the project will have been approved through this research approval process. However, we may also disclose health information about you to people preparing to conduct a research project, so long as the health information they review does not leave HealthQuilt.



- **TO AVERT A SERIOUS THREAT TO HEALTH OR SAFETY.** We may use and disclose health information about you when necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person such as notifying emergency response personnel about a possible exposure to AIDS and or HIV. Any such disclosure, however, would only be to the extent required or permitted by federal, state or local laws and regulations.
- **CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP.** In the event that HealthQuilt is sold or merged with another organization, your health information/medical record will become the property of the new owner, although you will maintain the right to request that copies of your health information be transferred to another entity, medical group, physician or other healthcare provider.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

- **FUNERAL DIRECTORS, CORONERS AND MEDICAL EXAMINERS.** We may disclose your health information to funeral directors as necessary to carry out their duties. We may also disclose health information to a coroner or medical examiner. This may be necessary, for example, to identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.
- **HEALTH OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES.** We may disclose your health information to a health oversight agency for activities such as audits, inspections, licensure reviews, investigations into illegal conduct, and compliance with other laws authorized by federal, state or local laws and regulations. These activities are necessary for the government to monitor the health care system, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws.
- **INMATES.** If you are an inmate of a correctional institution or under the custody of a law enforcement official, we may disclose health information about you to the institution or law enforcement official, if the disclosure is necessary (a) for the institution to provide you with health care; (b) to protect your health and safety or the health and safety of others; or (c) for the safety and security of the correctional institution.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT.** We may release your health information if asked to do so by a law enforcement official in the following circumstances: (a) in response to a court order, subpoena, warrant, summons or similar process; (b) to identify or locate a suspect fugitive, material witness, or missing person; (c) about the victim of a crime, if, under certain limited circumstances, we are unable to obtain the person's agreement; (d) about a death we believe may be the result of criminal conduct; (e) about criminal conduct at HealthQuilt; or (f) in emergency situations to report a crime; the location of the crime or victims; or the identity, description or location of the person who committed the crime.
- **LAWSUITS AND DISPUTES.** If you are involved in a lawsuit or a dispute, we may disclose your health information to the extent expressly authorized by a court or administrative order. We may also disclose health information about you in response to a subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if reasonable efforts have been made to notify you of the request (which may include written notice to you) and you have not objected, or to obtain an order protecting the information requested.
- **MILITARY AND VETERANS.** If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release health information about you as required by military authorities. We may also release health information about foreign military personnel to the appropriate foreign military authority.
- **NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.** We may release health information about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.



- **ORGAN AND TISSUE PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS.** If you are an organ donor, we may disclose health information to organizations that handle organ procurement or organ, eye or tissue transplantation or to an organ donation bank, as necessary, to facilitate organ or tissue donation and transplantation.
- **PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS.** We may disclose health information about you to authorize federal officials so they may provide protection to the President, other authorized persons, or foreign heads of state or to conduct special investigations.
- **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING.** We may disclose health information about you for public health activities. We will only make this disclosure if you agree or when required or authorized by law. These activities generally include the following: (a) to prevent or control disease, injury or disability; (b) to report births and deaths; (c) to report the abuse or neglect of children, elders and dependent adults; (d) to report reactions to medications or problems with products; (e) to notify people of recalls of products they may be using; and (f) to notify a person who may have been exposed to a disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition.
- **VICTIMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.** We may disclose your health information to notify the appropriate government authority if we believe that a patient has been the victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only make this disclosure when required or authorized by law.
- **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.** We may disclose health information about you for workers' compensation or similar programs. These programs provide benefits for work-related injuries or illness.
- **SECURITY CLEARANCES.** We may use medical information about you to make decisions regarding your medical suitability for a security clearance or service abroad. We may also release your medical suitability determination to the officials in the Department of State who need access to that information for these purposes.
- **MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSONNEL TEAMS.** We may disclose health information to a state or local government agency or a multidisciplinary personnel team relevant to the prevention, identification, management or treatment of an abused child and the child's parents, or elder abuse and neglect.
- **SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF HEALTH INFORMATION.** In some circumstances, your health information may be subject to additional restrictions that may limit or preclude some uses or disclosures described in this Notice of Privacy Practices. For example, there are special restrictions on the use and/or disclosure of certain categories of health information such as: (a) AIDS treatment information and HIV tests results; (b) treatment for mental health conditions and psychotherapy notes; (c) alcohol, drug abuse and chemical dependency treatment information; and/or (d) genetic information, are all subject to special restrictions. In addition, Government health benefit programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid, may also limit the disclosure of patient information for purposes unrelated to the program.

YOUR PRIVACY RIGHTS

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

- **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. Usually this includes medical and billing records, but may not include some mental health information. If you request a copy of your health information that may be used to make decisions about your care, we may charge a fee for the costs of copying, mailing or other supplies associated with your



request. To inspect and copy health information that may be used to make decisions about you, you must submit your request in writing to:

HealthQuilt
1401 Wirt Road, Ste E2
Houston, TX 77055
Attention: Medical Records

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

- **RIGHT TO REQUEST RESTRICTIONS.** You have the right to request a restriction or limitation on the health information HealthQuilt uses or discloses about you for treatment, payment or health care operations. You can also request a restriction or limitation on the health information we disclose about you to someone who is involved in your care or the payment for your care, like a family member or friend.
- **WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT YOUR REQUEST.** If we do agree, we will comply with your request unless the information is needed to provide you emergency treatment. We will notify you if we do not agree to a requested restriction. To request restrictions, you must submit a written request to HealthQuilt at the above address.

In your request, you must state: (a) what information you want to limit; (b) whether you want to limit its use, disclosure or both; and (c) to whom you want the limits to apply; for example, no disclosures to your spouse.

- **RIGHT TO RESTRICT DISCLOSURE FOR SERVICES PAID BY YOU IN FULL.** If you have paid for health care services out-of-pocket, in full, and you request that we not disclose health information related solely to those services to a health plan, we must accommodate your request, except where we are required by law to make a disclosure.
- **RIGHT TO AMEND.** If you feel that health information we have about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask us to amend the information. You have the right to request an amendment to your health information for as long as the information is kept by or for HealthQuilt. You must make your request to amend your health information, in writing, and submit it to HealthQuilt at the above address. You must include a reason that supports your request. In addition, we may deny your request if you ask us to amend information that:
 1. Was not created by us, unless the person or entity that created the information is no longer available to make the amendment;
 2. Is not part of the health information kept by or for HealthQuilt;
 3. Is not part of the information which you would be permitted to inspect and copy; or
 4. Is accurate and complete.

The law permits us to deny your request for an amendment if it is not in writing or does not include a reason to support the request.

Even if HealthQuilt denies your request for amendment, you have the right to submit a written addendum, not to exceed 250 words, with respect to any item or statement in your record you believe is incomplete or incorrect. If you clearly indicate in writing that you



want the addendum to be made part of your medical record we will attach it to your records and include it whenever we make a disclosure of the item or statement you believe to be incomplete or incorrect.

- **REQUEST AN ACCOUNTING OF DISCLOSURES.** You have the right to request an “accounting of disclosures.” Such an accounting is a list of the disclosures we made of health information about you other than our own uses for treatment, payment and health care operations (as those functions are described above) and with other expectations pursuant to law. To request this list or accounting of disclosures, you must submit your request in writing to HealthQuilt at the above address. Your request must state a time period that may not be longer than six (6) years. Your request should indicate in what form you want the list (for example, on paper or electronically). The first list you request within a 12-month period will be free. For additional lists, we may charge you for the costs of providing the list. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time before any costs are incurred.
- **RIGHT TO REQUEST CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS.** You have the right to request that we communicate with you about health matters in a certain way or at a certain location. You must make your request for confidential communications in writing to HealthQuilt at the address noted above. We will not ask you the reason for your request. We will accommodate all reasonable requests. Your request must specify how or where you wish to be contacted.
- **RIGHT TO OBTAIN A PAPER COPY OF THIS NOTICE.** You have the right to receive a paper copy of this Notice. You may request a copy of this Notice at any time. Even if you have agreed to receive this Notice electronically, you are still entitled to a paper copy of this Notice.
- **RIGHT TO NOTICE OF BREACH.** You have the right to be notified if we or one of our Business Associates becomes aware of an improper disclosure of your health information.
- **CERTAIN DISCLOSURES REQUIRE YOUR AUTHORIZATION:** The following uses and disclosures will be made only with your authorization: (i) most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes; (ii) uses and disclosures of health information for marketing purposes, including subsidized treatment communications; (iii) disclosures that constitute a sale of health information; and (iv) other uses and disclosures not described in the this Notice of Privacy Practices.

CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE

We reserve the right to change this Notice at any time. We reserve the right to make the revised or changed Notice effective for all health information we have about you as well as any information we receive in the future. We will post a copy of the current Notice in the office. The Notice will contain the effective date on the first page, in the top right-hand corner. If we amend this Notice, we will offer you a copy of the current Notice in effect. You may request a copy of the current Notice each time that you visit HealthQuilt for services or by calling HealthQuilt and requesting that the current Notice be sent to you in the mail.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO FILE A COMPLAINT OR TO REPORT A PROBLEM

If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, please let us know promptly so we can address the situation. You may file a complaint with HealthQuilt and/or with the Secretary of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. All complaints must be submitted in writing.



To file a complaint with HealthQuilt, send a written complaint to the HealthQuilt at:

HealthQuilt
1401 Wirt Rd, Ste E2
Houston, TX 77055
Attention: Privacy Officer

If you would like to discuss a problem without submitting a formal complaint, you may contact the Privacy Officer by telephone at (346) 406-1730; or by electronic mail at info@healthquilt.com.

You will not be penalized for filing a complaint.

OTHER USES OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Other uses and disclosures of health information not covered by this Notice or the laws that apply to us will be made only with your written permission. If you provide us permission to use or disclose health information about you, you may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you revoke your permission, we will stop the uses and disclosures allowed by that permission, except to the extent that we have already acted in reliance on your permission. For example, we are unable to take back any disclosures we have already made with your permission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF NOTICE

We will ask you to acknowledge that you received this Notice.

This notice is effective March 2020.