



THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED & DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU ARE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 23, 2013

DISCOUNT DRUG MART INC.
NOTICE OF PRIVACY
PRACTICES

GENERAL INFORMATION: Discount Drug Mart is committed to protecting and safeguarding the confidentiality of your **private health information (PHI)** while providing you quality service at low prices. This notice fully describes this commitment towards preventing improper or unnecessary use or disclosure of your PHI. Discount Drug Mart is required by law to maintain the privacy of Protected Health Information and to provide our patrons with a notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI.

This Notice describes how we may use and disclose PHI to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations and for other specified purposes that are permitted by law.

This notice applies to customers/patrons of any of the Discount Drug Mart pharmacies. A copy is available at www.discount-drugmart.com.

The employees and any third parties who perform services for Discount Drug Mart are bound by the terms of this Notice.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, termed HIPAA, requires that Discount Drug Mart develop and implement a specific policy safeguarding health information termed as "protected health information" (PHI) which is received or created while providing you health related services. PHI relates to your physical or mental health condition, the provision of health care to you, or payment for your health care that could be used to identify you. Prescriptions and patient history are examples of PHI.

USES & DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PHI: In order to safeguard your PHI, Discount Drug Mart may limit the manner in which your PHI is used and disclosed. We may use or disclose your PHI in accordance to federal law as described below:

We will use PHI for treatment. Example: Information obtained by a pharmacist (drug allergies, previous prescription history, etc) will be used to dispense prescription medications to you. We will document pertinent information as it relates to medications dispensed.

We will use PHI for payment. Example: We may contact your insurer or pharmacy benefit manager to determine drug coverage or amount of copayment. We will bill you or a third party payor for costs of prescription medications that may include identifiable information.

We will use PHI for health care operations. Example: We may use information in your health record to monitor the performance of the pharmacists providing treatment to you. This information will be used to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care and service we provide to you. We may use prescription information for fraud and abuse detection activities or to analyze data for planning reasons.

We may share PHI with another health care provider. Example: We may discuss your prescription history with your primary care physician if there are questions or concerns pertaining to your prescription.

Discount Drug Mart may use or disclose PHI in some of the ways listed below:

Business Associates: There are some services provided by us through contracts with business associates. When such services are contracted, we may disclose PHI about you to our business associate so that they are able to perform a necessary function or job. To protect PHI about you, we require the business associate to appropriately safeguard the PHI.

Communication with individuals in your care or payment for your care: Our pharmacists, using their professional judgment, may disclose to a family member, other relative, personal friend, or any person you identify, PHI relevant to that person's involvement in your care and payment related to care. We may also disclose PHI about you to a person or entity assisting in an emergency so that your family can be notified about your condition, status, and location.

Health related communication: We may contact you to provide refill reminders, information about treatment alternatives, appointment reminders, wellness clinics or any other health related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. Discount Drug Mart will seek individual authorization prior to making any treatment and healthcare operations communications, if those communications involved financial remuneration for making the communications from a third party whose product or service is being marketed.

Food and Drug Administration: We may disclose to the FDA, or persons under jurisdiction of the FDA, PHI relative to adverse events with respect to drugs, foods, supplements, products and product defects, or post marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Worker's compensation: We may disclose PHI about you as authorized by and as necessary to comply with laws relating to worker's compensation or similar programs established by law.

Public health: As required by law, we may disclose PHI to public health or legal authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability.

Law Enforcement: We may disclose PHI about you for law enforcement purposes required by law or in response to a valid subpoena or other legal issues.

Judicial and administrative proceedings: If you are involved in a lawsuit or dispute, we may disclose your PHI in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request, or other lawful process by someone else involved in the dispute, but only if efforts have been made to inform you about the request or to obtain an order to protect PHI.

Health oversight activities: We may disclose PHI to an oversight agency for activities authorized by law. Such activities include but are not limited to audits, investigations, and inspections as necessary for our licensure, government programs, and compliance with civil rights laws. For example, Discount Drug Mart are subject to random inspections by the state pharmacy board. Inspectors or other government officials may view or receive PHI as a result.

National security and intelligence activities: We may release PHI about you to authorized federal officials for intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Military and veterans: If you are a member of the armed forces, we may release PHI about you as required by military command authorities.

Public safety: We may use and disclose PHI about you when necessary to prevent threat to your health and safety or the health and safety of the public or another person.

Victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence: We may disclose PHI to a government authority, such as a social service or protective services agency, if we reasonably believe you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. We will only disclose this type of information to the extent required by law.

Correctional institution: If you are or become an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose PHI to the institution or its agents when necessary for your health or the health and safety of others.

Coroners and medical examiners: We may release PHI about you to help identify a deceased person or determine the cause of death.

As required by law: We must disclose PHI about you when required to do so by applicable federal, state, or local laws.

We will use the minimum amount of your PHI necessary to perform such duties to the extent required under law. We will comply with more stringent state laws when applicable over less strict federal law.

