

Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Notice

Privacy regulations outlined in the federal Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (known as HIPAA) take effect on April 14, 2003, and apply to many health care providers and health plans. You are receiving this notice due to new federal HIPAA regulations. The Department of Health and Human Services and Colorado State University Self-funded Plan are committed to protecting your health information.

Under HIPAA's definitions, the University's self-funded medical, dental, umbrella, and flexible spending accounts are considered covered "health plans."

The Privacy regulations are intended to serve three purposes:

1. Consumer Control - give the individuals access to their own health information.
2. Safeguard Privacy - limit the use of your protected health information (PHI).
3. Public Responsibility - give health plans clear guidance they can rely on when public officials request disclosure of PHI.

Enclosed is the current Notice of Privacy Practice as required by HIPAA regulations. Please read this Notice carefully as it describes how medical information about you and any dependents may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information based on new privacy regulations under HIPAA.

If you need more information, please contact the Benefits Office at 970-491-6737.