

## SUMMARY OF THE UC\_HS NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

UC\_HS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to ensure appropriate access or disclosure of protected health information. A new federal law called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides additional safeguards for ensuring that your health information is adequately protected. HIPAA also requires UC\_HS to provide you with a Notice of Privacy Practices (Notice) which explains how your mental health information may be used and disclosed and also explains your rights related to your mental health information.

The attached Notice explains how UC\_HS may use and disclose your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment for services and health care operations. Other reasons to use and disclose your protected health information as permitted or required by law are also referred to in the Notice. The Notice also explains your rights to review and control your protected health information and explains the responsibility UC\_HS has to protect your information.

## SUMMARY OF THE UC\_HS NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES (MENTAL HEALTH)

UC\_HS has always had privacy and patient confidentiality standards in place to ensure appropriate access or disclosure of protected health information. A new federal law called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides additional safeguards for ensuring your health information is adequately protected. HIPAA also requires UC\_HS to provide you with a Notice of Privacy Practices (Notice), which explains how mental health information may be used and disclosed and also explains your rights related to your mental health information.

The following is a summary of the types of activities for which protected mental health information may be used and disclosed, as permitted by law:

- Treatment: UC\_HS may access and disclose information about you for the purpose of providing you treatment and services.
- Payment: UC\_HS may access and disclose information about you to bill for services and treatment you received.
- Health Care Operations: UC\_HS may access and disclose information about you to carry out functions necessary to run the health system and to continually improve the quality and effectiveness of the health care and services it provides.
- To send you an appointment reminder
- To advise you of the services UC\_HS provides
- For UC\_HS fundraising
- To communicate to the individuals that are involved in or responsible for your care or treatment
- For certain research activities
- For health and safety functions authorized by law, such as required disease or abuse reporting
- For legal proceedings
- For health oversight activities such as inspections, audits and investigations
- For certain law enforcement activities
- When disclosure is required by law or pursuant to a court order or subpoena
- When disclosure is authorized by the patient or a patient's representative

You have the right to do the following:

- Review and copy your mental health information
- Request that limits be put on the use or disclosure of your mental health information
- Request that communications about your mental health information be made in ways that further protect your privacy
- Request to have corrections made to your mental health information
- Receive a listing of where and when your mental health information was disclosed