

IMPORTANT PRIVACY PRACTICES NOTICE

EFFECTIVE DATE 05/01/2021

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

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

The law requires Volunteer State Health Plan, Inc. dba BlueCare Tennessee (“we,” “us,” “our”), to give this notice of privacy practices to all our members. This notice lets you know about our legal duties and your rights when it comes to your information and privacy.

The law requires us to keep private all of the information we have about you, including your name, address, claims information, and other information that can identify you. The law requires us to follow all the privacy practices in this notice from the date on the cover until we change or replace it.

We have the right to make changes to our privacy practices and this notice at any time, but we will send you a new notice any time we do. Any changes we make to this notice will apply to all information we keep, including information created or received before we made changes.

Please review this notice carefully and keep it on file for reference. You may ask us for a copy of this notice at any time. To get one, please contact us at:

PRIVACY OFFICE

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
1 Cameron Hill Circle Chattanooga, TN 37402
Phone: **(888) 455-3824**
Fax: **(423) 535-1976**
E-mail: **privacy_office@bcbst.com**

You may reach out to us at this address or phone number to ask questions or make a complaint about this notice or how we’ve handled your privacy rights. You may also submit a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Just ask us for their address, and we will give it to you.

We support your right to protect the privacy of the information we have about you. We won’t retaliate against you if you file a complaint with HHS or us.

ORGANIZATIONS THIS NOTICE COVERS

This notice applies to the following entities: Volunteer State Health Plan, Inc. dba BlueCare Tennessee, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc., and all of its subsidiaries and affiliates, except Golden Security Insurance Company, Southern Health Plan, Inc., and Tennessee Health Foundation, Inc]. We may share our members’ information with these entities as outlined in this notice. If we buy or create new subsidiaries, they may also be required to follow the privacy practices outlined in this notice.

For additional information, including TTY/TDD users, please call the Privacy Office at **1-888-455-3824**. Para obtener ayuda en español, llame al **1-888-455-3824**.

HOW WE MAY USE AND SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

We typically use your information for treatment, payment or health care operations. Sometimes we are allowed, and sometimes we are required, to use or disclose your information in other ways. This is usually to contribute to the public good, such as public health and research.

Some states may have more stringent laws. When those laws apply to your information, we follow the more stringent law. Specifically, Tennessee law and other state and federal laws require us to obtain your consent for most uses and disclosures of behavioral health information, alcohol and other substance use disorder information, and genetic information.

WAYS WE MAY USE AND SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

The following are examples of how we may use or disclose your information in accordance with federal and state laws.

For your treatment: We may use or share your information with health care professionals who are treating you. For example, a doctor may send us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional care for you from other health care providers.

To make payments: We may use or share your information to pay claims for your care or to coordinate benefits covered under your health care coverage. For example, we may share your information with your dental provider to coordinate payment for dental services.

For health care operations: We may use or share your information to run our organization. For example, we may use or share it to measure quality, provide you with care management or wellness programs, and to conduct audit and other oversight activities.

To work with plan sponsors: We may share your information with your employer-sponsored group health plan (if applicable) for plan administration. Please see your plan documents for all ways a plan sponsor may use this information.

For underwriting: We may use or share your health plan information for underwriting, premium rating or other activities relating to the creation, renewal or replacement of a health plan contract. We're not allowed to use or disclose genetic information for underwriting purposes.

Research: We may use or share your information in connection with lawful research purposes.

In the event of your death: If you die, we may share your health plan information with a coroner, medical examiner, funeral director or organ procurement organization.

To help with public health and safety issues: We can share information about you in certain situations, such as:

- › Preventing disease
- › Assisting public health authorities in controlling the spread of disease such as during pandemics
- › Helping with product recalls
- › Reporting negative reactions to medications
- › Reporting suspected abuse, neglect or domestic violence
- › Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

As required by law: We may use or share your information as required by state or federal law.

To comply with a court or administrative order: Under certain circumstances, we may share your information in response to a court or administrative order, subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process.

To address workers' compensation, law enforcement and other government requests: We can use or share information about you:

- › For workers' compensation claims
- › For law enforcement purposes, or with a law enforcement official
- › With health oversight agencies for legal activities
- › To comply with requests from the military or other authorized federal officials

With your permission: Some uses and disclosures of information require your written authorization, including certain instances if you want us to share your information with anyone. You may cancel your authorization in writing at any time, but doing so won't affect use or disclosure that happened while your authorization was valid.

For example, we would need your written authorization for:

- › Most uses and disclosures of psychotherapy notes
- › Uses and disclosures of your health plan information for marketing
- › Sale of your health plan information
- › Other uses and disclosures not described in this notice

We will let you know if any of these circumstances arise.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

To access your records: You have the right to view and get copies of your information that we maintain, with some exceptions. You must make a written request, using a form available from the Privacy Office, to get access to your information.

If you ask for copies of your information, we may charge you a reasonable, cost-based fee for staff time, and postage if you want us to mail the copies to you. If you ask for this information in another format, this charge will reflect the cost of giving you the information in that format. If you prefer, you may request a summary or explanation of your information, which may also result in a fee. For details about fees we may charge, please contact the Privacy Office.

To see who we've disclosed your information to: You have the right to receive a list of most disclosures we (or a business associate on our behalf) made of your information, other than for the purpose of treatment, payment or health care operations, within the past six years. This list will include the date of the disclosure, what information was disclosed, the name of the person or entity it was disclosed to, the reason for the disclosure and some other information.

If you ask for this list of disclosures more than once in a 12-month period, we may charge you based on the cost of responding to those additional requests. Please contact the Privacy Office for a more detailed explanation of these charges.

To ask for restrictions: You have the right to ask for restrictions on how we use or disclose your health plan information. We're not required to agree to these requests except in limited circumstances. If we agree to a restriction, you and we will agree to the restriction in writing. Please contact the Privacy Office for more information.

To get notified of a breach: The law requires us to notify you after the unauthorized acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of your unsecured information that compromises the security or privacy of the information. This notice must include various data points, such as:

- › The date of the breach
- › The type of data disclosed
- › Who accessed, used or disclosed the information without permission
- › Who received your information, if known
- › What we did or will do to prevent future breaches

To ask for confidential communications: You have the right to ask us in writing to send your information to you at a different address or by a different method if you believe that sending information to you in the normal manner will put you in danger. We have to grant your request if it's reasonable. We will also need information from you, including how and where to communicate with you. Your request must not interfere with payment of your premiums.

If there's an immediate threat, you may make your request by calling the Member Service number on the back of your Member ID card or the Privacy Office. Please follow up your call with a written request as soon as possible.

To ask for changes to your personal information: You have the right to request in writing that we revise your information. Your request must be in writing and explain why the information should be revised. We may deny your request, for example, if we received (but didn't create) the information you want to amend. If we deny your request, we will write to let you know why. If you disagree with our denial, you may send us a written statement that we will include with your information.

If we grant your request, we will make reasonable efforts to notify people you name about this change. Any future disclosures of that information will be revised.

To request another copy of this notice: You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you got this notice by email or from our website. Please contact the Privacy Office at the address above.

To choose a personal representative: You may choose someone to exercise your rights on your behalf, such as a power of attorney. You may also have a legal guardian exercise your rights. We will work with you if you'd like to make this effective.



Do you need help with your health care, talking with us, or reading what we send you? If so, call us for free at:

BlueCare **1-800-468-9698**,
TennCare*Select* **1-800-263-5479**, or
CoverKids **1-888-325-8386**
(TRS: **711** ask for **888-418-0008**)



BlueCareSM
TennCare*Select*
CoverKids

1 Cameron Hill Circle | Chattanooga, TN 37402 | bluecare.bcbst.com

BlueCare Tennessee is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. We obey federal and state civil rights laws. We do not treat people in a different way because of their race, color, birth place, language, age, disability, religion, or sex. Do you think we did not help you or treated you differently? Then call BlueCare **1-800-468-9698**, TennCare*Select* **1-800-263-5479**, CoverKids **1-888-325-8386** or TennCare **1-855-857-1673** (TRS **711**) for free.

Spanish: Español ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al BlueCare **1-800-468-9698**. Llame al TennCare*Select* **1-800-263-5479**. Llame al CoverKids **1-888-325-8386** (TRS: **711: 1-888-418-0008**).

یەدروک :Kurdish

ئەگەر بە کوردی سۆرانی قسە دەکەن، خزمەتگوزارییەکانی وەرگیران بەخۆراییی دەخرێتە بەردەستتان. پەیوەندی بکەن بە ژمارە (TRS: **711: 1-888-418-0008**) **1-888-325-8386** CoverKids **1-800-263-5479** TennCare*Select* **1-800-468-9698** BlueCare