

**NOTE:** The Office of Legal Affairs recommends this agreement/contract state what “protected health information” (PHI) will be shared among the entities, and include a specific statement of how PHI will be used, how it will be transmitted and to whom, etc. All agreements/contracts must be reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs. The Office of Legal Affairs may be contacted at (210) 567-2020 to assist you with any questions.

### Sample Business Associate Agreement Provisions

This Business Associate Agreement (the “Agreement”), is made as of the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (the “Effective Date”), by and between Business Associate and Covered Entity (collectively the “Parties”) to comply with privacy standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as they may be amended from time to time, 45 C.F.R. parts 160 and 164, subparts A and E (“the Privacy Rule”) and security standards adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as they may be amended from time to time, 45 C.F.R. parts 160, 162 and 164, subpart C (“the Security Rule”) and any applicable state confidentiality laws.

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, Business Associate provides [**describe services Business Associate provides**] to or on behalf of Covered Entity;

WHEREAS, in connection with these services, Covered Entity discloses to Business Associate certain protected health information that is subject to protection under the Privacy Rule; and

WHEREAS, the Privacy Rule requires that Covered Entity receive adequate assurances that Business Associate will comply with certain obligations with respect to the PHI received in the course of providing services to or on behalf of Covered Entity.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

A. Definitions. Terms used herein, but not otherwise defined, shall have meaning ascribed by the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule.

1. Business Associate. “Business Associate” shall mean [**insert name of Business Associate**].
2. Covered Entity. “Covered Entity” shall mean [**insert name of Covered Entity**].
3. Designated Record Set. “Designated Record Set” shall mean a group of records maintained by or for a Covered Entity that is: (i) the medical records and billing records about Individuals maintained by or for a

covered health care provider; (ii) the enrollment, payment, claims adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for a health plan; or (iii) used, in whole or in part, by or for the covered entity to make decisions about Individuals. For purposes of this definition, the term “record” means any item, collection, or grouping of information that includes protected health information and is maintained, collected, used, or disseminated by or for a covered entity.

4. HIPAA Rules. The Privacy Rule and the Security Rule are referred to collectively herein as “HIPAA Rules.”
  5. Individual. “Individual” shall mean the person who is the subject of the protected health information.
  6. Protected Health Information (“PHI”). “Protected Health Information” or PHI shall mean individually identifiable health information that is transmitted or maintained in any form or medium.
  7. Required by Law. “Required by Law” shall mean a mandate contained in law that compels a use or disclosure of PHI.
  8. Secretary. “Secretary” shall mean the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her Designee.
- B. Purposes for which PHI May Be Disclosed to Business Associate. In connection with the services provided by Business Associate to or on behalf of Covered Entity described in this Agreement, Covered Entity may disclose PHI to Business Associate for the purposes of **[describe purpose of disclosure, which will relate directly to the services provided by Business Associate to Covered Entity, e.g., claims processing, audit, design of computer system, etc.]**.
- C. Obligations of Covered Entity. If deemed applicable by Covered Entity, Covered Entity shall:
1. provide Business Associate a copy of its Notice of Privacy Practices (“Notice”) produced by Covered Entity in accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.520 as well as any changes to such Notice;
  2. provide Business Associate with any changes in, or revocation of, authorizations by Individuals relating to the use and/or disclosure of PHI, if such changes affect Business Associate’s permitted or required uses and/or disclosures;
  3. notify Business Associate of any restriction to the use and/or disclosure of PHI to which Covered Entity has agreed in accordance with 45 C.F.R. 164.522;

4. notify Business Associate of any amendment to PHI to which Covered Entity has agreed that affects a Designated Record Set maintained by Business Associate; and
  5. if Business Associate maintains a Designated Record Set, provide Business Associate with a copy of its policies and procedures related to an Individual's right to: access PHI; request an amendment to PHI; request confidential communications of PHI; or request an accounting of disclosures of PHI.
- D. Obligations of Business Associate. Business Associate agrees to comply with applicable federal and state confidentiality and security laws, specifically the provisions of the Privacy Rule applicable to business associates (as defined by the Privacy Rule), including:
1. Use and Disclosure of PHI. Except as otherwise permitted by this Agreement or applicable law, Business Associate shall not use or disclose PHI except as necessary to provide **[describe type of services provided by Business Associate to Covered Entity]** services to or on behalf of Covered Entity, and shall not use or disclose PHI that would violate the HIPAA Rules if used or disclosed by Covered Entity. Provided, however, Business Associate may use and disclose PHI as necessary for the proper management and administration of Business Associate, or to carry out its legal responsibilities. Business Associate shall in such cases:
    - (a) provide information to members of its workforce using or disclosing PHI regarding the confidentiality requirements of the Privacy Rule and this Agreement;
    - (b) obtain reasonable assurances from the person or entity to whom the PHI is disclosed that: (a) the PHI will be held confidential and further used and disclosed only as Required by Law or for the purpose for which it was disclosed to the person or entity; and (b) the person or entity will notify Business Associate of any instances of which it is aware in which confidentiality of the PHI has been breached; and
    - (c) agree to notify the designated Privacy Officer of Covered Entity of any instances of which it is aware in which the PHI is used or disclosed for a purpose that is not otherwise provided for in this Agreement or for a purpose not expressly permitted by the HIPAA Rules.
  2. Data Aggregation. In the event that Business Associate works for more than one Covered Entity, Business Associate is permitted to use and disclose PHI for data aggregation purposes, however, only in order to

analyze data for permitted health care operations, and only to the extent that such use is permitted under the Privacy Rule.

3. De-identified Information. Business Associate may use and disclose de-identified health information if (i) the use is disclosed to Covered Entity and permitted by Covered Entity in its sole discretion and (ii) the de-identification is in compliance with 45 C.F.R. §164.502(d), and the de-identified health information meets the standard and implementation specifications for de-identification under 45 C.F.R. §164.514(a) and (b).
4. Safeguards. Business Associate shall maintain appropriate safeguards to ensure that PHI is not used or disclosed other than as provided by this Agreement or as Required by Law. Business Associate shall implement administrative, physical and technical safeguards that reasonably and appropriately protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of any electronic PHI it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of Covered Entity.
5. Minimum Necessary. Business Associate shall attempt to ensure that all uses and disclosures of PHI are subject to the principle of “minimum necessary use and disclosure,” i.e., that only PHI that is the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose of the use, disclosure, or request is used or disclosed.
6. Disclosure to Agents and Subcontractors. If Business Associate discloses PHI received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, to agents, including a subcontractor, Business Associate shall require the agent or subcontractor to agree to the same restrictions and conditions as apply to Business Associate under this Agreement. Business Associate shall ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the electronic PHI that it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the Covered Entity. Business Associate shall be liable to Covered Entity for any acts, failures or omissions of the agent or subcontractor in providing the services as if they were Business Associate’s own acts, failures or omissions, to the extent permitted by law. Business Associate further expressly warrants that its agents or subcontractors will be specifically advised of, and will comply in all respects with, the terms of this Agreement.
7. Individual Rights Regarding Designated Record Sets. If Business Associate maintains a Designated Record Set on behalf of Covered Entity Business Associate agrees as follows:
  - (a) Individual Right to Copy or Inspection. Business Associate agrees that if it maintains a Designated Record Set for Covered Entity that

is not maintained by Covered Entity, it will permit an Individual to inspect or copy PHI about the Individual in that set as directed by Covered Entity to meet the requirements of 45 C.F.R. § 164.524. Under the Privacy Rule, Covered Entity is required to take action on such requests as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days following receipt of the request. Business Associate agrees to make reasonable efforts to assist Covered Entity in meeting this deadline. The information shall be provided in the form or format requested if it is readily producible in such form or format; or in summary, if the Individual has agreed in advance to accept the information in summary form. A reasonable, cost-based fee for copying health information may be charged. If Covered Entity maintains the requested records, Covered Entity, rather than Business Associate shall permit access according to its policies and procedures implementing the Privacy Rule.

- (b) Individual Right to Amendment. Business Associate agrees, if it maintains PHI in a Designated Record Set, to make amendments to PHI at the request and direction of Covered Entity pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 164.526. If Business Associate maintains a record in a Designated Record Set that is not also maintained by Covered Entity, Business Associate agrees that it will accommodate an Individual's request to amend PHI only in conjunction with a determination by Covered Entity that the amendment is appropriate according to 45 C.F.R. § 164.526.
- (c) Accounting of Disclosures. Business Associate agrees to maintain documentation of the information required to provide an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.528, and to make this information available to Covered Entity upon Covered Entity's request, in order to allow Covered Entity to respond to an Individual's request for accounting of disclosures. Under the Privacy Rule, Covered Entity is required to take action on such requests as soon as possible but not later than 60 days following receipt of the request. Business Associate agrees to use its best efforts to assist Covered Entity in meeting this deadline. Such accounting must be provided without cost to the individual or Covered Entity if it is the first accounting requested by an individual within any 12 month period; however, a reasonable, cost-based fee may be charged for subsequent accountings if Business Associate informs the individual in advance of the fee and is afforded an opportunity to withdraw or modify the request. Such accounting is limited to disclosures that were made in the six (6) years prior to the request (not including disclosures prior to the compliance date of the Privacy Rule) and shall be provided for as long as Business Associate maintains the PHI.

8. Internal Practices, Policies and Procedures. Except as otherwise specified herein, Business Associate shall make available its internal practices, policies and procedures relating to the use and disclosure of PHI, received from or on behalf of Covered Entity to the Secretary or his or her agents for the purpose of determining Covered Entity's compliance with the HIPAA Rules, or any other health oversight agency, or to Covered Entity. Records requested that are not protected by an applicable legal privilege will be made available in the time and manner specified by Covered Entity or the Secretary.
9. Notice of Privacy Practices. Business Associate shall abide by the limitations of Covered Entity's Notice of which it has knowledge. Any use or disclosure permitted by this Agreement may be amended by changes to Covered Entity's Notice; provided, however, that the amended Notice shall not affect permitted uses and disclosures on which Business Associate relied prior to receiving notice of such amended Notice.
10. Withdrawal of Authorization. If the use or disclosure of PHI in this Agreement is based upon an Individual's specific authorization for the use or disclosure of his or her PHI, and the Individual revokes such authorization, the effective date of such authorization has expired, or such authorization is found to be defective in any manner that renders it invalid, Business Associate shall, if it has notice of such revocation, expiration, or invalidity, cease the use and disclosure of the Individual's PHI except to the extent it has relied on such use or disclosure, or if an exception under the Privacy Rule expressly applies.
11. Knowledge of HIPAA Rules. Business Associate agrees to review and understand the HIPAA Rules as it applies to Business Associate, and to comply with the applicable requirements of the HIPAA Rule, as well as any applicable amendments.
12. Security Incident. Business Associate agrees to immediately report to the Covered Entity any security incident of which Business Associate becomes aware.

E. Term and Termination.

1. Term. This Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and shall be terminated when all PHI provided to Business Associate by Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, is destroyed or returned to Covered Entity.
2. Termination for Breach. If Business Associate breaches any provision in this Agreement, Covered Entity may, at its option, access and audit the records of Business Associate related to its use and disclosure of PHI, require Business Associate to submit to monitoring and reporting, and

such other conditions as Covered Entity may determine is necessary to ensure compliance with this Agreement, or Covered Entity may terminate this Agreement on a date specified by Covered Entity.

3. Effect of Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement for any reason, Business Associate agrees to return or destroy all PHI received from Covered Entity, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of Covered Entity, maintained by Business Associate in any form. If Business Associate determines that the return or destruction of PHI is not feasible, Business Associate shall inform Covered Entity in writing of the reason thereof, and shall agree to extend the protections of this Agreement to such PHI and limit further uses and disclosures of the PHI to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the PHI not feasible for so long as Business Associate retains the PHI.

F. Miscellaneous.

1. Indemnification. To the extent permitted by law, Business Associate agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Covered Entity from and against all claims, demands, liabilities, judgments or causes of action of any nature for any relief, elements of recovery or damages recognized by law (including, without limitation, attorney's fees, defense costs, and equitable relief), for any damage or loss incurred by Covered Entity arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to any acts or omissions or other conduct of Business Associate or its agents in connection with the performance of Business Associate's or its agents' duties under this Agreement. This indemnity shall apply even if Covered Entity is alleged to be solely or jointly negligent or otherwise solely or jointly at fault; provided, however, that a trier of fact finds Covered Entity not to be solely or jointly negligent or otherwise solely or jointly at fault. This indemnity shall not be construed to limit Covered Entity's rights, if any, to common law indemnity.

Covered Entity shall have the option, at its sole discretion, to employ attorneys selected by it to defend any such action, the costs and expenses of which shall be the responsibility of Business Associate. Covered Entity shall provide Business Associate with timely notice of the existence of such proceedings and such information, documents and other cooperation as reasonably necessary to assist Business Associate in establishing a defense to such action.

These indemnities shall survive termination of this Agreement, and Covered Entity reserves the right, at its option and expense, to participate in the defense of any suit or proceeding through counsel of its own choosing.

2. Mitigation. If Business Associate violates this Agreement or either of the HIPAA Rules, Business Associate agrees to mitigate any damage caused by such breach.
3. Rights of Proprietary Information. Covered Entity retains any and all rights to the proprietary information, confidential information, and PHI it releases to Business Associate.
4. Survival. The respective rights and obligations of Business Associate under Section E.3 of this Agreement shall survive the termination of this Agreement.
5. Notices. Any notices pertaining to this Agreement shall be given in writing and shall be deemed duly given when personally delivered to a Party or a Party's authorized representative as listed below or sent by means of a reputable overnight carrier, or sent by means of certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid. A notice sent by certified mail shall be deemed given on the date of receipt or refusal of receipt. All notices shall be addressed to the appropriate Party as follows:

If to Covered Entity:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

If to Business Associate:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Amendments. This Agreement may not be changed or modified in any manner except by an instrument in writing signed by a duly authorized officer of each of the Parties hereto. The Parties, however, agree to amend this Agreement from time to time as necessary, in order to allow Covered Entity's to comply with the requirements of the HIPAA Rules.
7. Choice of Law. This Agreement and the rights and the obligations of the Parties hereunder shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ **[Insert State]**, without regard to applicable conflict of laws principles.

8. Assignment of Rights and Delegation of Duties. This Agreement is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the Parties hereto and their respective successors and permitted assigns. However, neither Party may assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other Party, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, however, Covered Entity retains the right to assign or delegate any of its rights or obligations hereunder to any of its wholly owned subsidiaries, affiliates or successor companies. Assignments made in violation of this provision are null and void.
9. Nature of Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create (i) a partnership, joint venture or other joint business relationship between the Parties or any of their affiliates, (ii) any fiduciary duty owed by one Party to another Party or any of its affiliates, or (iii) a relationship of employer and employee between the Parties.
10. No Waiver. Failure or delay on the part of either Party to exercise any right, power, privilege or remedy hereunder shall not constitute a waiver thereof. No provision of this Agreement may be waived by either Party except by a writing signed by an authorized representative of the Party making the waiver.
11. Equitable Relief. Any disclosure of misappropriation of PHI by Business Associate in violation of this Agreement will cause Covered Entity irreparable harm, the amount of which may be difficult to ascertain. Business Associate therefore agrees that Covered Entity shall have the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for specific performance and/or an order restraining and enjoining Business Associate from any such further disclosure or breach, and for such other relief as Covered Entity shall deem appropriate. Such rights are in addition to any other remedies available to Covered Entity at law or in equity. Business Associate expressly waives the defense that a remedy in damages will be adequate, and further waives any requirement in an action for specific performance or injunction for the posting of a bond by Covered Entity.
12. Severability. The provisions of this Agreement shall be severable, and if any provision of this Agreement shall be held or declared to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect as though such illegal, invalid or unenforceable provision had not been contained herein.
13. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Agreement shall be considered or construed as conferring any right or benefit on a person not party to this Agreement nor imposing any obligations on either Party hereto to persons not a party to this Agreement.

14. Headings. The descriptive headings of the articles, sections, subsections, exhibits and schedules of this Agreement are inserted for convenience only, do not constitute a part of this Agreement and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.
15. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with all Exhibits, Riders and amendments, if applicable, which are fully completed and signed by authorized persons on behalf of both Parties from time to time while this Agreement is in effect, constitutes the entire Agreement between the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral understandings, agreements, negotiations, commitments, and any other writing and communication by or between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. In the event of any inconsistencies between any provisions of this Agreement in any provisions of the Exhibits, Riders, or amendments, the provisions of this Agreement shall control.
16. Interpretation. Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be resolved in favor of a meaning that permits Covered Entity to comply with the HIPAA Rules and any applicable state confidentiality laws. The provisions of this Agreement shall prevail over the provisions of any other agreement that exists between the Parties that may conflict with, or appear inconsistent with, any provision of this Agreement or the HIPAA Rules.
17. Regulatory References. A citation in this Agreement to the Code of Federal Regulations shall mean the cited section as that section may be amended from time to time.

Agreed to:

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVERED ENTITY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or Print)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_