

Important Privacy Information

This notice describes how information we have about you may be used and shared, and how you can get access to this information. **Please review it carefully.**

Legal obligations

The law requires BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc., and certain subsidiaries and affiliates (“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, other demographic information, claims information, financial information (including social security numbers), diagnosis information, other health information, and other information that can identify you (your “information”). 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, Tennessee 37402



Phone: 1-888-455-3824
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 BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc. We may share your information with any of the following subsidiaries and affiliates as set forth below: Shared Health, Inc., Group Insurance Services, Inc., Volunteer State Health Plan, Inc., Golden Security Insurance Co., SecurityCare of Tennessee, Inc., and Shared Health Mississippi, Inc.

These entities support us in providing health insurance and related products and services. If we buy or create new affiliates or 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 share 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 may require us to obtain your consent for uses and disclosures of behavioral health information, alcohol and other substance use disorder information, and genetic information.

Information about members and former members may be used and shared for treatment, payment and health care operations.

We restrict access to information about you to those employees or contractors who need to know that information to run our business. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your information.

Sources of Information We Collect and Share

We collect information about you from the following sources:

- 1. Information we receive from you:** We collect information directly from you. For example, we collect information like your name, address, and social security number when you apply for insurance or complete other forms, and we collect information like your name and contact information when you contact us for customer service requests.

2. Information about your transactions with us and our affiliates: We collect information about your relationship with us and with our affiliates. For example, we collect information about the claims we process like when you received health care, what services are covered, and how much we’ve paid. We sometimes use affiliates and related entities to provide administrative services to process those claims, and they provide us with the same type of information about you.
- 3. Information about your transactions with non-affiliated third-parties:** We collect health plan information about your relationship with non-affiliated third-parties such as healthcare providers. For example, when your healthcare provider submits claims to us, it includes health plan information about your encounter like diagnostic information, procedures you’ve had, and the date of service.

As permitted by law and this notice, we may use and share all of the information we have about you as described above.

Ways We May Use and Share Your Information

We may use and share any of the information we have about you, including to nonaffiliated third-parties, in accordance with federal and state laws. The following are examples of how we may use or share your information — and the types of third-parties to whom we may share your information.

- 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. For example, we may use or share it to help verify your identity or to give you more information about your health insurance options.

Please see your plan documents for all ways a plan sponsor may use this information.

For underwriting: We may use or share your 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 share genetic information for underwriting purposes.

Research: We may use or share your information in connection with lawful research purposes. For example, we may share your information as part of a limited data set given to a researcher for clinical research.

In the event of your death: If you die, we may share your 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 any 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 information for marketing
- › Sale of your information
- › Other uses and disclosures not described in this notice

We will let you know if any of these circumstances arise. We cannot use or share information except as described in this notice without your written authorization.

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 shared 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 within the last six years, other than those made for the purpose of treatment, payment or health care operations, and certain other disclosures. This list will include the date of the disclosure, what information was shared, the name of the person or entity it was shared 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 share your 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: We will notify you after an unauthorized acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of your unsecured health information that compromises the security or privacy of the information.

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 on page 2 of this notice.

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.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee (BlueCross) complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex¹. BlueCross does not exclude people or treat them less favorably because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

BlueCross:

- Provides people with disabilities reasonable modifications and free appropriate auxiliary aids and services to communicate effectively with us, such as: (1) qualified sign language interpreters and (2) written information in other formats, such as large print, audio and accessible electronic formats.
- Provides free language assistance services to people whose primary language is not English, such as: (1) qualified interpreters and (2) information written in other languages.

If you need these reasonable modifications, appropriate auxiliary aids and services, or language assistance services, contact a consumer advisor at the number on the back of your Member ID card or call 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298 or 711).

If you believe that BlueCross has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex, you can file a grievance (“Nondiscrimination Grievance”). For help with preparing and submitting your Nondiscrimination Grievance, contact a consumer advisor at the number on the back of your Member ID card or call 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298 or 711). They can provide you with the appropriate form to use in submitting a Nondiscrimination Grievance. You can file a Nondiscrimination Grievance in person or by mail, fax or email. Address your Nondiscrimination Grievance to: Nondiscrimination Grievance; c/o Manager, Operations, Member Benefits Administration; 1 Cameron Hill Circle, Suite 0019, Chattanooga, TN 37402-0019; (423) 591-9208 (fax); Nondiscrimination_OfficeGM@bcbst.com (email).

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW., Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201, 1–800–368–1019, 800–537–7697 (TDD). Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

You can contact BlueCross’s Nondiscrimination Coordinator at 423-535-1010 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298 or 711); Nondiscrimination_CoordinatorGM@bcbst.com (email); or Corporate Compliance, 1 Cameron Hill Circle, 1,4, Chattanooga, TN 37402.

This notice is available at BlueCross’s website: bcbst.com.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Inc., an Independent Licensee of the BlueCross BlueShield Association.

BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee is a Qualified Health Plan Issuer in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

ATTENTION: If you speak English, free language assistance services and appropriate auxiliary aids and services are available to you. Please call the Member Service number on the back of your Member ID card or 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia con el idioma, así como ayudas y servicios auxiliares adecuados. Llame al número de Servicio de atención a miembros que figura en el reverso de su tarjeta de identificación de miembro o al 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

اتباه: إذا كنت تتحدث العربية، فستوفر لك خدمات المساعدة اللغوية المجانية والخدمات والأدوات المساعدة المناسبة. يرجى الاتصال برقم خدمة الأعضاء الموجود على ظهر بطاقة هوية العضو الخاص بك أو بالرقم 1-800-848-0298 (الهاتف النصي: 1-800-565-9140)

注意：如果您說中文，我們提供免費的語言協助服務，以及適當的輔助協助和服務。請撥打會員ID卡背面的會員服務部號碼或 1-800-565-9140（聽障專線（TTY）：1-800-848-0298）。

LƯU Ý: Nếu quý vị nói tiếng Việt, quý vị sẽ được cung cấp các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí và các dịch vụ và công cụ hỗ trợ phù hợp. Vui lòng gọi đến số của bộ phận Dịch vụ Hội viên ở mặt sau Thẻ ID Thành viên của quý vị hoặc số 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

주의: [한국어]를 사용하시는 경우, 무료 언어 지원 서비스 및 적절한 보조 기구와 서비스가 제공됩니다. 가입자 ID 카드 뒷면의 가입자 서비스 전화번호 또는 1-800-565-9140(TTY: 1-800-848-0298)번으로 전화하시기 바랍니다.

ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services gratuits d’assistance linguistique et des aides et services auxiliaires appropriés sont à votre disposition. Veuillez appeler le numéro du Service adhérents indiqué au dos de votre carte d’assuré adhérent ou le 1-800-565-9140 (TTY/ATS : 1-800-848-0298).

ເອົາໃຈໃສ່: ຖ້າທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ພາສາລາວ, ມີການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ ແລະ ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ ແລະ ການບໍລິການທີ່ເໝາະສົມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ກະລຸນາໂທຫາເບີຂອງຝ່າຍບໍລິການສະມາຊິກທີ່ມີຢູ່ດ້ານຫຼັງບັດ ID ສະມາຊິກຂອງທ່ານ ຫຼື 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ማስገንዘቢያ:- አማርኛ የሚናገሩ ከሆኑ፣ ነጻ የቋንቋ እርዳታ አገልግሎቶች እና ተገቢ ረዳት መርዳዎች እና አገልግሎቶች ለእርስዎ ይገኛሉ። በአባልነት መታወቂያዎ ጀርባ ላይ በሚገኘው የአባልነት አገልግሎት ቁጥር ወይም በ 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298) ይደውሉ።

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlose Sprachassistenzen und geeignete Hilfsmittel und Dienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Bitte rufen Sie die Nummer des Mitgliederdienstes auf der Rückseite Ihrer Mitglieds-ID-Karte oder 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298) an.

ધ્યાન આપો: જો તમે ગુજરાતી બોલો છો, તો તમારા માટે નિઃશુલ્ક ભાષા સહાય સેવાઓ અને યોગ્ય સહાયક સાધનો અને સેવાઓ ઉપલબ્ધ છે. કૃપા કરીને તમારા સભ્ય ID કાર્ડની પાછળના સભ્ય સર્વીસ નંબર ઉપર અથવા 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298) પર કોલ કરો.

お知らせ：日本語をお話しになる場合は、無料の支援サービスと適切な補助器具・サービスがご利用いただけます。会員IDカードの裏面に記載の会員サービス番号あるいは1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298)まで、お電話にてご連絡ください。

PANSININ: Kung kayo ay nagsasalita ng Tagalog, magagamit para sa inyo ang libreng mga serbisyong tulong sa wika at kaukulang mga karagdagang tulong at mga serbisyo. Mangyaring tawagan ang numero ng Serbisyo sa Miyembro na nasa likod ng inyong Kard ng ID ng Miyembro o sa 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ध्यान दें: यदि आप हिंदी बोलते हैं, तो आपके लिए नि:शुल्क भाषा सहायता सेवाएँ और उपयुक्त सहायक साधन और सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं। कृपया अपने सदस्य ID कार्ड के पीछे दिए गए सदस्य सेवा नंबर या 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298) पर कॉल करें।

ВНИМАНИЕ! Если Вы говорите по-русски, Вам будут предоставлены услуги языковой поддержки и соответствующие вспомогательные средства и сервисы на бесплатной основе. Позвоните в отдел обслуживания участников по номеру, указанному на обратной стороне Вашей идентификационной карты участника, или по номеру 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

توجه: اگر به زبان فارسی صحبت می کنید، خدمات کمک زبانی رایگان و مساعدت ها و خدمات کمکی مناسب در دسترس شما هستند. در صورتیکه عضو هستید، با شماره خدمات اعضا در پشت کارت عضویت خود یا 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298) تماس بگیرید.

ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, genyen sèvis asistans gratis pou lang ansanm ak èd pou sèvis oksiyèl apwopriye k ap disponib pou ou. Tanpri rele nimewo Sèvis Manm ki sou do kat ID Manm ou an oswa 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

UWAGA: Osoby posługujące się językiem polskim mogą bezpłatnie skorzystać z pomocy językowej oraz rozwiązań i usług pomocniczych. Prosimy zadzwonić pod numer działu obsługi ubezpieczonych podany na odwrocie karty identyfikacyjnej członka lub numer 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ATENÇÃO: Se você fala Português, serviços gratuitos de assistência linguística e recursos e serviços auxiliares apropriados estão disponíveis para você. Ligue para o número de telefone do serviço de Atendimento ao Membro informado no verso de seu cartão de identificação de membro ou para 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ATTENZIONE: se parla italiano, sono disponibili per Lei servizi gratuiti di assistenza linguistica nonché aiuti e servizi ausiliari adeguati. Chiami il numero del Servizio per i membri riportato sul retro della Sua scheda identificativa del membro oppure il numero 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

BAA’áKOHWIINIDZIN: Diné bizaad bee yánílt’í’go, t’áá jiik’eh saad bee áka’aná’awo’ bee áka’anída’awo’í dóó t’áadoole’é binahjí’ bee adahoodooníłgííí diné bich’í’ anídahazt’í’í bee bika’aanída’awo’í ná dahółó. T’áá shóódí Bìł Ha’dít’éhi Bika’aná’awo’ Bìł Ha’dít’éhi ID naaltsoos nítł’izí bine’déé’ binámboo bee hodíłlnih doodago 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

WICHDICH: Wann du Deutsch schwetzscht un brauchschtt Hilf fer communicat-e kenne mer dich helfe unni as es dich ennich eppes koschde zellt. Mir kenne differnti Sadde Schprooch-Hilf beignriege aa fer nix. Ruf der Member Service Number uff die hinnerscht Seit vun dei Member ID Card uff odder 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

FAASILASILAGA: Afai e te tautala i le faa-Samoa, o loo avanoa mo oe auaunaga fesoasoani mo gagana e aunoa ma se totogi faapea ma fesoasoani fa’aopo’opo ma auaunaga talafeagai. Faamolemole vala’au le numera o le Member Service (Auaunaga mo Tagata Auai) o lo’o i tua o lau pepa ID o le Member (Tagata Auai) po o le 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

GAKIULA: Gare iga go kapetal Faluwasch, ye toore paliuwal yamem bwe tepangug rel gamatefal lane kapetal Faluwasch. Fale peshem kol yegili nampal Member Service ila yelog liugul tagurul Member ID kard la yam gare 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

ATENSION: Guaha setbisio siha para hâgu yanggen fifino’ CHamoru hao, dibâtde na setbision inayudon fumino’ CHamoru yan propriu na inasisten trâstes yan setbisio siha. Put fabot âgang i numiron Setbision Membro gi santatten i kattâ-mu Member ID pat 1-800-565-9140 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

¹ Consistent with the scope of sex discrimination described at 45 CFR 92.101(a)(2))



1 Cameron Hill Circle
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402
bcbst.com

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Review and keep for reference.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY PRACTICES NOTICE



PRIVACY PRACTICES

Important Privacy
Practice Notice

Effective Date 09/01/2024

