

Required Addendum to our NPP (Notice of Privacy Practices)

Effective as of February 15, 2026

Pediatric Associates of New Bedford, Inc.
225 Field St
New Bedford MA 02740
508-99-2981

Special Privacy Protections for Certain Health Information

We are **not primarily a substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program**. We may receive and maintain **SUD-related information incidentally** (e.g., referrals, history, meds, labs) and that information we maintain may be subject to additional federal privacy protections, including records related to the diagnosis, treatment, or referral for treatment of a substance use disorder. These records are protected by federal law (42 C.F.R. Part 2), which, in some cases, is more restrictive than HIPAA. When these stricter rules apply, we follow them.

How We May Use and Disclose Health Information

We may use and disclose your health information for treatment, payment, and health care operations. When information includes substance use disorder records, additional legal requirements may apply, including your written consent before using or disclosing that information.

Limits on Use of Substance Use Disorder Records

Federal law places **strict limits** on how substance use disorder records may be used or disclosed. Substance use disorder records cannot be used or disclosed to initiate or substantiate civil, criminal, administrative, or legislative proceedings without written consent or a qualifying court order.

Authorization and Consent

Certain uses and disclosures require written authorization. You may revoke authorization at any time by written request, except where already relied upon. If your health information includes substance use disorder records, your authorization may allow us to use and disclose that information for **treatment, payment, and health care operations**, as permitted by law.

Your Rights Regarding Your Health Information

You have rights to inspect, access, amend, request restrictions, request confidential communications, and receive an accounting of disclosures, as permitted by law.

Redisclosure Notice

If your health information is disclosed to another party, that party may be permitted to **redisclose** the information, and it may no longer be protected by HIPAA. However, **substance use disorder records** may continue to be protected by federal law even after disclosure, depending on the circumstances.

Public Health and De-Identified Information

We may disclose **de-identified health information** for public health, research, or health care operations purposes as permitted by law. De-identified information does not identify you and cannot reasonably be used to identify you.

Fundraising Communications

We may contact you for **fundraising purposes**. You have the right to **opt out** of receiving fundraising communications at any time. Your decision to opt out will **not affect your access to care**.

Complaints and Enforcement

If you believe your privacy rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with us or with the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

Changes to This Notice

We reserve the right to change this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time. Any changes will apply to all health information we maintain. The current version of this Notice will be available upon request and on our website.