

## COMPLIANCE REFERENCE

## Notice of Privacy Practices, explained

An educational explainer of what a HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) is and what it commonly includes. Not a template to adopt; have your notice drafted or reviewed by counsel.

**Educational example only.** This is not legal, medical, or compliance advice, and it is not a ready-to-use legal document. Requirements vary by state, payer, and setting. Adapt anything like this to your own situation and have it reviewed by qualified legal and compliance counsel licensed in your jurisdiction before using it in a practice. You are responsible for compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, including HIPAA. shrinkiatry publishes professional commentary and education, not legal or medical advice.

*Current as of July 7, 2026. Laws, payer rules, and billing codes change. Confirm the current requirements for your jurisdiction and setting before you rely on anything here.*

### What it is

The Privacy Rule generally requires covered health care providers to give patients a Notice of Privacy Practices describing how their health information may be used and shared and what rights they have.

### What it commonly describes

- How the practice may use and disclose protected health information for treatment, payment, and operations
- Uses that need the patient's authorization
- Patient rights: to access, request amendments, get an accounting of disclosures, request restrictions, and file a complaint
- The practice's duties, a contact for questions, and the effective date

### How it is used

Practices generally provide the notice at the first service, make a good-faith effort to obtain written acknowledgment, post it, and make it available on request. Confirm the current requirements and adapt to your setting with counsel.

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