



HIPAA and You

2021 – How BABHA Protects My
Privacy.



How the Privacy of My Information is Protected

- The information you share with a mental health care provider like Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health is protected by several laws. These laws also give you certain rights about your health care information.
- The information we are referring to is your name, address and other data that identifies you, information about your mental and physical health conditions, and details about the services and supports you receive from Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health and its contracted service providers, like Do-All or List Psychological Services.

BABHA and HIPAA

The laws require us, in most instances, to obtain your permission before we share your health information with someone else, like your family and friends. However, the laws do allow us to share your information with other health care providers you have agreed to use, without obtaining your permission first. We can also share your information, without your permission, in order to obtain payment for the services we provide to you. We may also be required to share information about your health conditions and health services with other health care providers, called “health information exchange”, to ensure you receive good health care from all of us.

BABHA and HIPAA

There are certain kinds of information which have special protections because they are considered particularly sensitive. This includes your conversations with your psychiatrist and therapist, information about any addictions you may have, or your HIV/AIDS status. Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health must have your permission or be ordered by a court judge to share this kind of information.

As a person receiving behavioral health services, you have certain privacy rights under federal law (in addition to the confidentiality rights under state law).



You have the right to:

- Receive a notice describing the privacy practices of Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health's.
- Review or obtain a copy of your health information (with limited exceptions).
- Add a note to your health record, if you think it is incorrect.
- Restrict the use or disclosure of your health information (with limited exceptions) .
- Know with who your health information was shared, when the law allows it to be shared without your permission.



HIPAA and Security

Health care providers like Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health are also required to keep your health information secure, by protecting paper documents and computer information from viewing by other people who do not need to know.



How to Know if My Privacy May Have Been Violated

Unfortunately, there may be a time when your health information is shared when it should not have been. The following are possible signs that your (or someone else's) health information may not have been protected as the law requires:

- If a family member, friend or someone in your community seems to know more about your health than you have told them or posted on social media.
- If you receive papers in the mail from Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health that include information about another person.
- Your health care provider seems to know more about your health than they need to know to provide your care.
- You notice your service provider's staff talking about your care or someone else's in a hallway, waiting room or other public space.
- You meet with your service provider in a public place, and they do not keep your paperwork from being seen by other people.
- You meet with your service provider at their office and their computer screen can be seen by other people who do not need to know your information.

If you suspect your health information was shared when it should not have been

- There is no wrong door! Report it to:

Bay Arenac Behavioral Health Authority's
-Recipient Rights/Customer Services Department

By calling (989) 895-2317

Or, by completing and mailing a Recipient Rights Complaint form to:

909 Washington Ave

Bay City, MI 48708

And/Or

Bay Arenac Behavioral Health Authority's
-Corporate Compliance Hot-Line

800-243-7483