



**HIPAA Compliant Authorization
for Release of Health-Related Information**

I authorize any health plan, physician, health care professional, hospital, clinic, laboratory, pharmacy, medical facility, prescription benefit manager, or other health care provider that has provided payment, treatment or services to me or on my behalf within the past 10 years (collectively, "My Providers") to disclose my entire medical record, prescription drug information, and any other protected health information concerning me to National Life Insurance Company and Life Insurance Company of the Southwest (collectively, "The Company") and The Company's agents, employees, reinsurers, and representatives. This includes information on the diagnosis or treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection and sexually transmitted diseases. This also includes information on the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, but excludes psychotherapy notes. I further authorize The Company to redisclose any protected health information concerning me to The Company's reinsurers and to MIB, Inc., which operates an information exchange on behalf of life and health insurance companies.

By my signature below, I acknowledge that any agreements I have made to restrict my protected health information do not apply to this Authorization and I instruct My Providers to release and disclose my entire medical record without restriction.

This protected health information is to be disclosed under this Authorization so that The Company may: (1) underwrite my application for coverage, make eligibility, risk rating, policy issuance and enrollment determinations; (2) obtain reinsurance; (3) administer claims and determine or fulfill responsibility for coverage and provision of benefits; (4) administer coverage; and (5) conduct other legally permissible activities that relate to any coverage I have or have applied for with The Company.

This Authorization shall remain in force for 30 months following the date of my signature below, and a copy of this Authorization is as valid as the original. I understand that I have the right to revoke this Authorization in writing, at any time, by sending a written request for revocation to National Life Insurance Company or Life Insurance Company of the Southwest, Centralized Mailing Address, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05604, Attention: Privacy Officer. I understand that a revocation is not effective to the extent that any of My Providers has relied on this Authorization or to the extent that The Company has a legal right to contest a claim under an insurance policy or to contest the policy itself. I understand that any information that is disclosed pursuant to this Authorization may be redisclosed and no longer covered by federal rules governing privacy and confidentiality of health information.

I understand that My Providers may not refuse to provide treatment or payment for health care services if I refuse to sign this Authorization. I further understand that if I refuse to sign this Authorization to release my complete medical record, The Company may not be able to process my application, or if coverage has been issued, may not be able to make any benefit payments. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this Authorization.

Proposed Insured/Patient: *(Print)*

Date of Birth:

Signature of Proposed Insured/Patient or Personal Representative:

Today's Date: *(mm/dd/yyyy)*

Description of Personal Representative's Authority or Relationship to Patient:

Questions & Answers about Release of Protected Health Information to a Life or Disability Income Insurer.

1. May I release complete personal medical information to a life or disability income insurance company?

Yes. As you did before the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule became effective, a medical care provider may disclose complete Protected Health Information (PHI) to organizations not subject to the Privacy Rule as long as the applicant has signed a HIPAA compliant authorization.

2. Does the "minimum amount necessary" rule apply to this release to a life or disability income insurer?

No. The "minimum amount necessary" rule does not apply as long as a HIPAA compliant authorization is signed. This question was specifically addressed by Health and Human Services (HHS) in a Q and A published December 4, 2002: "Uses and disclosures that are authorized by the individual are exempt from the minimum necessary requirements. For example, if a covered health care provider receives an individual's authorization to disclose medical information to a life insurer for underwriting purposes, the provider is permitted to disclose the information requested on the authorization without making any minimum necessary determination. The authorization must meet the requirements of 45 CFR 164.508."

3. Can an insurer request disclosure of a person's "entire" medical record or does it have to refer to specific items in a medical file only?

Yes. HIPAA allows insurers to seek and providers to disclose a person's entire medical record, if the authorization used clearly states that the entire medical record is to be disclosed (e.g., "I authorize you to disclose my entire medical record.")

4. Does HIPAA mandate the use of one specified form of authorization by everyone?

No. HIPAA requires that certain specified "elements" be included in a valid authorization to disclose protected health information. HIPAA does not mandate that a specific form be used. Both covered and non-covered entities are free to use any format they wish so long as it is compliant with HIPAA's requirements. The signed authorization contains all of the elements required by HIPAA.

5. What should I do if I had previously agreed to a restriction and now receive an authorization to release the "entire medical record?" Does the authorization cover PHI that was restricted?

You may release all medical records, restricted and otherwise if a patient has previously requested a restriction and later signs an authorization which removes the restriction. The wording of this authorization specifically releases any restricted information.

This HIPAA compliant authorization and Questions and Answers were created by the American Council of Life Insurers.