Geisinger Health System

Universal Authorization for Release of Medical Information

To improve patient care, Geisinger is requesting to share your Geisinger medical information with other community providers involved in your healthcare. For example, doctors treating you in a hospital emergency room.

Geisinger considers your privacy to be very important and requests your approval to share your medical information outside the Geisinger Health System.

When you complete the “Universal Authorization for Release of Medical Information”, you give Geisinger permission to release your medical information to physicians and other providers involved in your healthcare. This includes access to all information stored in your Geisinger medical record.

You can revoke or cancel this authorization at any time.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Universal Authorization?
Universal Authorization form allows any physician or licensed healthcare professional to access a Geisinger patient’s medical information contained in their medical record.

How will this improve my care?
By having your authorization on file at Geisinger, your medical information can be made readily available to other healthcare professionals involved in your care. Physicians can better coordinate your care for improved medical outcomes and patient safety.

Can I release a portion of my medical record with the Universal Authorization?
No. Universal Authorization releases access to all information contained in your medical record. This includes new information that will be added to your Geisinger record over time, as well as sensitive information including alcoholism, drug abuse or dependence, mental health/retardation, and treatment for HIV/AIDS.
If I complete this authorization, who will see my Geisinger medical information?
With this authorization, only licensed healthcare professionals and their authorized staff will be given access to your medical information. This may include the following non-Geisinger providers:
- hospital emergency rooms
- your family doctor
- specialist physician treating you

This may help facilitate access to important medical information about you in the event of an emergency (for example, a trip to a local hospital emergency department). Additionally if you are treated by a physician or other healthcare professional outside the Geisinger Health System, it allows that physician practice or organization to have access to your Geisinger information.

Universal Authorization will not be used to release your medical information to insurance companies or other non-medical organizations.

Will my community doctor automatically have access to my medical information?
Community providers involved in your care can request access to your Geisinger medical record. Geisinger provides a secure website (called GeisingerConnect) that can be used by community providers to view Geisinger electronic medical records. Users of this online service are required to sign an agreement to only use your medical information for appropriate medical purposes only and agree to keep your information confidential. Only community providers who use Geisinger’s secure physician website can access your Geisinger electronic medical record.

Geisinger will only release access to your complete medical record to someone outside the Geisinger Health System if you have given specific authorization to do so. By completing a Universal Authorization you are giving us that permission.

How long is the Universal Authorization in effect?
Universal Authorization is in effect until it is canceled or revoked. Patient can cancel the authorization at any time.

How do I cancel this authorization?
‘Universal Authorization to Release Medical Information’ can be canceled/revoked via MyGeisinger or you can submit a written request at your next Geisinger visit or send it to:

Health Information Management Department
Medical Reports MC 13-11
100 N Academy Avenue
Danville, PA 17821

If you revoke your Universal Authorization, non-Geisinger providers may lose access to the medical information contained in your Geisinger medical record.