



# Department of Veterans Affairs

## REQUEST FOR AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE MEDICAL RECORDS OR HEALTH INFORMATION

**Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Information:** The execution of this form does not authorize the release of information other than that specifically described below. The information requested on this form is solicited under Title 38, U.S.C. The form authorizes release of information in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and 38 U.S.C. 5701 and 7332 that you specify. Your disclosure of the information requested on this form is voluntary. However, if the information including Social Security Number (SSN) (the SSN will be used to locate records for release) is not furnished completely and accurately, Department of Veterans Affairs will be unable to comply with the request. The Veterans Health Administration may not condition treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility on signing the authorization. VA may disclose the information that you put on the form as permitted by law. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure of the information as outlined in the Privacy Act systems of records notices identified as 24VA19 "Patient Medical Record - VA" and in accordance with the VHA Notice of Privacy Practices. You do not have to provide the information to VA, but if you don't, VA will be unable to process your request and serve your medical needs. Failure to furnish the information will not have any effect on any other benefits to which you may be entitled. If you provide VA your Social Security Number, VA will use it to administer your VA benefits. VA may also use this information to identify veterans and persons claiming or receiving VA benefits and their records, and for other purposes authorized or required by law. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires us to notify you that this information collection is in accordance with the clearance requirements of section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. We may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB number. We anticipate that the time expended by all individuals who must complete this form will average 2 minutes. This includes the time it will take to read instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form.

### ENTER BELOW THE PATIENT'S NAME AND SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IF THE PATIENT DATA CARD IMPRINT IS NOT USED.

TO: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (Print or type name and address of health care facility)

PATIENT NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

NAME AND ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION, INDIVIDUAL OR TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM INFORMATION IS TO BE RELEASED

**VETERAN'S REQUEST:** I request and authorize Department of Veterans Affairs to release the information specified below to the organization, or individual named on this request. I understand that the information to be released includes information regarding the following condition(s):

DRUG ABUSE

ALCOHOLISM OR ALCOHOL ABUSE

TESTING FOR OR INFECTION WITH HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

**INFORMATION REQUESTED** (Check applicable box(es) and state the extent or nature of the information to be disclosed, giving the dates or approximate dates covered by each)

COPY OF HOSPITAL SUMMARY

COPY OF OUTPATIENT TREATMENT NOTE(S)

OTHER (Specify)

PURPOSE(S) OR NEED FOR WHICH THE INFORMATION IS TO BE USED BY INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM INFORMATION IS TO BE RELEASED

### NOTE: ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INFORMATION DESIRED MAY BE LISTED ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM

**AUTHORIZATION:** I certify that this request has been made freely, voluntarily and without coercion and that the information given above is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I will receive a copy of this form after I sign it. I may revoke this authorization, in writing, at any time except to the extent that action has already been taken to comply with it. Written revocation is effective upon receipt by the Release of Information Unit at the facility housing the records. Redislosure of my medical records by those receiving the above authorized information may be accomplished without my further written authorization and may no longer be protected. Without my express revocation, the authorization will automatically expire: (1) upon satisfaction of the need for disclosure; (2) on (date supplied by patient); (3) under the following condition(s):

**I understand that the VA health care practitioner's opinions and statements are not official VA decisions regarding whether I will receive other VA benefits or, if I receive VA benefits, their amount. They may, however, be considered with other evidence when these decisions are made at a VA Regional Office that specializes in benefit decisions.**

DATE

SIGNATURE OF PATIENT OR PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR PATIENT (Attach authority to sign, e.g., POA)

### FOR VA USE ONLY

IMPRINT PATIENT DATA CARD (or enter Name, Address, Social Security Number)

TYPE AND EXTENT OF MATERIAL RELEASED

DATE RELEASED

RELEASED BY

In order to process an Authorization to permit disclosure of your electronic health information to your VA family caregiver through the Health Advocate System the Authorization must cover all types of health information, including information related to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), sickle cell anemia, drug abuse or alcohol abuse and alcoholism. VA is unable to remove HIV, sickle cell anemia drug abuse, alcoholism and alcohol abuse information from your electronic health record prior to it being shared with your VA family caregiver.

All boxes for the four protected conditions, drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse testing for or infection with HIV virus, and sickle cell anemia under the VETERANS'S REQUEST section have been checked for you. **If you do not want to authorize the sharing of drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse testing for or infection with HIV virus, and sickle cell anemia, you should not complete this Authorization.**

Even if you do not have any condition or information in your health record related to the drug abuse, alcoholism or alcohol abuse, HIV or sickle cell anemia at this time this Authorization must include permission to disclose this type of information. This means that if you acquire any of these conditions in the future, this authorization will allow VA to share that information. Your Authorization will be valid until you revoke and it will permit the disclosure of existing health information and health information created after you electronically sign this Authorization. This includes diagnosis of HIV or sickle cell anemia, and treatment for drug abuse and alcoholism or alcohol abuse that occurs after the signature of this Authorization.

By completing this Authorization you are authorizing VA to share your electronic health information with your VA family caregiver through the Health Advocate System. VA will continue to share your electronic health information through the Health Advocate System until you revoke it.

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, (HIPAA) VA is required to give you a copy of your Authorization. Please use the Print button to print yourself a copy.

.