

Accessing Vascular Medical Records

Our facility supports your ability to access your medical and billing records in order to be more knowledgeable and in control of decisions around your health care. You may also direct our facility to release records to third parties, such as other health care providers, family members or law firms working on your behalf. Please review these Frequently Asked Questions for additional information.

How can I access my own medical record from the dialysis facility?

Medical records (sometimes called a health record) are kept locally at our facility. If you would like to obtain your records, please submit your request directly to the facility where you received services.

If you are directing the facility to produce records to a third party (such as a family member or law firm) for non-treatment purposes, please complete our [Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information](#). If you prefer to use a different form of written authorization, please ensure it complies with HIPAA and applicable state requirements.

What if I want my nephrologist's or primary care physician's medical record?

Please contact those offices directly. They are independent health care providers and maintain their own medical records.

How can I access a record for a family member? What if I am the Power of Attorney?

If your family member is still living and has capacity to make his or her own medical decisions, he or she may authorize the facility to release the medical record to you. Please provide an [Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information](#) or another written request that complies with HIPAA and applicable state requirements. The authorization must be signed by the person being treated.

Your family member's "personal representative" also may direct the facility to release the record to the representative or to another person. The requirements for personal representatives vary based on state law. Accordingly, it is important to understand *who* may act as a personal representative, and *when* that power becomes valid.

States consider the Health Care Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy or court-appointed guardian to be the personal representative. However, those typically do not become effective until one or more physicians determine the person being treated no longer has capacity to make his or her own medical decisions. If you submit a written request for disclosure of medical records, please attach a copy of the Health Care POA, Health Care Proxy or Guardianship as well as documentation that the person being treated has been declared incapacitated.

How can I obtain a copy of a deceased person's medical record?

Please understand that we respect privacy even after death. The legal requirements for accessing a deceased person's medical record depends on who constitutes the "personal representative," which varies from state to state.

The Health Care POA or Health Care Proxy typically expires upon the person's death. Instead, most states consider the court-appointed estate executor or administrator to be the personal representative of a deceased person. Often the local probate court will issue "Letters of Administration," "Letters of Authority," or "Order Appointing Fiduciary" to document the appointment, even if the estate is not otherwise being probated.

Some states also permit the deceased person's spouse, adult child or other next of kin to obtain medical records pursuant to verification that no other person has been appointed as executor or administrator.

In order to facilitate your request for a deceased person's medical record, please provide the [Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information](#) along with documentation that supports your appointment as the personal representative.

What if I want to send the medical record to another physician or health care provider?

HIPAA allows Fresenius Kidney Care to disclose medical information to other providers for treatment purposes, such as to a physician, hospital or other dialysis facility to coordinate care.

Please encourage the health care provider to contact the facility directly so they can make appropriate arrangements. If you would rather deliver your medical record directly to the other provider, please submit a written request as described above.

Are there any other ways in which the facility will release medical information about a person?

Yes. For example, the facility may use its professional judgment to determine whether it is in the person's best interest to disclose certain medical information to a care partner or others directly involved in the person's care. Please read our FMCNA Notice of Privacy Practices [link] for more information.

If you need further information about access to medical records, please contact the local facility as described above. You also may contact our Privacy Officer at:

Fresenius Medical Care North America
Attn: FMCNA Privacy Officer
920 Winter Street Waltham, MA 02451-1457
1-800-662-1237 ext. 4235
Privacy@fmc-na.com