

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Client # \_\_\_\_\_

MH



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**Watsonville Office**  
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## MENTAL HEALTH ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD EXCHANGE

County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Services, and Network Providers utilize a secure, shared Electronic Health Record (EHR) system called Avatar, to store your Protected Health Information (PHI). PHI that is stored on the shared EHR system includes but is not limited to your name & other personal identifying information needed for the purpose of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations.

There are many benefits to your treatment providers utilizing a shared EHR, including allowing your care providers faster access to your health records and enabling them to better coordinate your care to ensure the best possible treatment for you. In the event of an emergency or disaster, storing your PHI in the EHR allows care providers to give you faster, and more effective, timely treatment when it matters most. County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Services and Network Providers are committed to upholding the confidentiality of all electronic medical records stored in the EHR in accordance with the federal Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations in addition to federal and State privacy laws.

### Current List of Avatar Providers

County of Santa Cruz Mental Health Treating Providers	Haven of Hope Mental Health Treating Providers	Sobriety Works SUD Treating Providers
County of Santa Cruz SUD Treating Providers	Parent Center Mental Health Treating Providers	New Life Community Center SUD Treating providers
Encompass Mental Health Treating Providers	Telecare Crisis Stabilization Program	Volunteer Center Mental Health Treating Providers
Encompass Community Recovery SUD Treating Providers	Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance SUD Prevention Treating Providers	Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance Mental Health Treating Providers
Janus of Santa Cruz SUD Treating Providers	Front Street Mental Health Treating Providers	Horizon Service Providers

## How is My Privacy Protected?

County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Services and participating Network Providers use a combination of safeguards to protect your health information. Technical safeguards include encryption, password protection, & the ability to track every viewers usage of the system. All participating providers must agree to follow written policies controlling access to information through the shared EHR system. Participating providers must follow federal HIPAA regulations in addition to federal and State privacy laws. Participating providers must also have their own policies and safeguards in place, including policies to train staff.

Only providers who are part of your treatment team will be authorized to access your EHR. Per HIPAA regulations, providers are only authorized to access the minimum necessary information from your EHR for the purpose of treatment, payment, or healthcare operations. If your chart is accessed by an unauthorized person, they could be subject to criminal penalties in accordance with federal regulations governing HIPAA as well as federal and State privacy laws.

## Your Rights and Acknowledgment of EHR Exchange Understanding

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you fully understand that your PHI will be stored on a shared EHR system, which is accessible by both County of Santa Cruz Behavioral Health Services and Network Providers listed above. You understand that only members of your treatment team will be authorized to access your EHR. You understand that all providers who have access to your EHR have agreed to uphold confidentiality and put specific safeguards in place to protect your PHI from being accessed by any unauthorized individuals in accordance with federal regulations governing HIPAA in addition to federal and State privacy laws. Please reference our Notice of Privacy Practices that was provided to you for more information. You understand that you have the right to request restrictions to who has access to view your PHI over the shared EHR system and that the request must be made in writing. Quality Improvement will review and provide a timely response to all requests. If you have any questions or concerns about how your information will be used or accessed through the shared EHR system you may contact the *Quality Improvement at 1-800-952-2335*. Submit all written requests to: *Quality Improvement, 1400 Emeline Ave. 2nd Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060*.

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Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature or Authorized Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name (Parent/Legal Guardian or Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date