This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information. Please review it carefully.

The Kroger Co. and its affiliates and subsidiaries (the "Company") is required to provide to you notice of its HIPAA Privacy Practices ("PHI") and to provide individuals with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to PHI. This notice may identify that you and that relates to your past, present or future physical or mental health or past, present or future transactions for payment for health care services for you. The Kroger Company's HIPAA Privacy Office may update this notice at any time. You will receive notification of a change to this notice and an explanation of the change on or before the effective date of the change. You are encouraged to ask questions about this notice and to request additional copies of this notice. You have the right to restrict certain disclosures of PHI to a health plan that is part of a Fully Integrated Managed Care ("FMC") plan that includes a pharmacy benefit. You may request restrictions by submitting a written request to the Kroger Company's HIPAA Privacy Office.

You have the right to restrict additional disclosures on our use or disclosure of PHI about you for treatment, payment, health care operations, communication with individuals involved in your care or by business associates, and other purposes, for which we are required by law. We are not required to agree to those restrictions. You have the right to restrict certain disclosures of PHI to a health plan when you pay out of pocket in full for the health care item or service. You may submit your request in any person at any of the Company's pharmacies or health clinics or by mail to the attention of our HIPAA Privacy Office. In the event that you pay the cost of services, medications dispensed and/or unauthorized provider, the company will provide you with advance notice of any practice rule. If you agree to the disclosure, you will notify the Administrator of the specific practice rule to the Administrator of the specific practice rule.

The Kroger Company is required to follow the terms of this Notice. We will not use or disclose PHI about you for any purpose other than those provided for above unless we have obtained your written authorization to do so. We may share your PHI with organizations involved in your care or by business associates, and other purposes, for which we are required by law.

We may disclose PHI about you to an address or phone number listed for you at any of the Company's pharmacies or health clinics or by mail to the attention of our HIPAA Privacy Office. In the event that you pay the cost of services, medications dispensed and/or unauthorized provider, the company will provide you with advance notice of any practice rule. If you agree to the disclosure, you will notify the Administrator of the specific practice rule to the Administrator of the specific practice rule.

Employment/Career-related information is subject to certain other exceptions, restrictions, and limitations. To request an accounting, you must submit a request in writing to the attention of our HIPAA Privacy Office. You must include a reason that supports your request. In certain cases, we may deny your request for amendment. If we deny your request for amendment, you have the right to have a statement included in your medical record to monitor the performance of the pharmacists, health care providers and other personnel providing treatment to you. This information will not be used in your health care plan except in accordance with your request. You may request that we contact you by other means or at other locations than those listed for you in your medical record to monitor the performance of the pharmacists, health care providers and other personnel providing treatment to you. This information will not be used in your health care plan except in accordance with your request.

We may disclose PHI about you to an address or phone number listed for you at any of the Company's pharmacies or health clinics or by mail to the attention of our HIPAA Privacy Office. In the event that you pay the cost of services, medications dispensed and/or unauthorized provider, the company will provide you with advance notice of any practice rule. If you agree to the disclosure, you will notify the Administrator of the specific practice rule to the Administrator of the specific practice rule.

We may disclose to the FDA or a person authorized by the FDA to receive PHI for activities related to quality, safety or effectiveness of FDA- regulated products, including Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies, reports of adverse events with respect to drugs, biologics, devices, supplements, products and product defects, or post-marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.

Public health: As required by law, we may disclose PHI about you to public health or legal authorities charged with ensuring or controlling disease, injury, or illness.

Health oversight activities: We may disclose PHI about you to oversight authorities for the control of communicable diseases or the delivery of public health care services and to support public health activities such as disease surveillance and public health investigations. We also may disclose PHI for other purposes, including public health activities relating to our core competencies, and other organizational purposes.

Organ and tissue procurement organizations: Consistent with applicable law, we may disclose PHI about you to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs for the purpose of tissue donation and transplant.

Correctional institution: If you are or become an inmate of a correctional institution, we may disclose PHI to the institution or its designees when necessary for your health or safety or that of others.

To assert a serious threat to health or safety: We may use and disclose PHI about you to agencies authorized to act on behalf of the President of the United States to conduct government-wide activities as required by law. We may disclose PHI about you to organizations or individuals to assure the proper identification and placement of individuals in cases of mass fatality.

Health care operations: The Kroger Company's pharmacies and health clinics provide a special customer service to its customers. Under the Privacy Rule, you may contact us, consent with applicable law, to provide, refund or appointment reminders, information about treatment alternatives (including the availability of alternative treatments), and health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to participate in this special care and service, you may notify us at any time. We will maintain that fact in any time, writing, by telephone or in person at one of our stores.

Communication with individuals involved in your care or payment for care: We will disclose PHI to your family, friends, or any person you identify, PHI relevant to that person's involvement in your care or payment related to your care, your pharmacist or nurse practitioner, in his or her professional judgment, determines that it is in your best interests.

Business associates: There are some services provided by us as through contracts with business associates. Examples include the electronic transmission of prescription or health care claims to insurers and benefit managers, creation of paper billing or transactional services that cannot be electronically transmitted, and payment remittance services. We may also contract with business associates to provide data aggregation services relating to our health care operations. When these services are contracted for, we may disclose PHI about you to our business associate so that they can perform a service that we have requested. We will require our business associates to appropriately safeguard the PHI.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): We may disclose to the FDA or a person authorized by the FDA to receive PHI for activities related to quality, safety or effectiveness of FDA-regulated products, including Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies, reports of adverse events with respect to drugs, biologics, devices, supplements, products and product defects, or post-marketing surveillance information to enable product recalls, repairs, or replacement.