

# Ensure Clear Communications with Your Support Team During a Medical Emergency

## Sharing Your Health Information with Family Members and Program Administrators

As you prepare for your study abroad program, you can travel with peace of mind knowing you have coverage with GeoBlue. However you should also plan ahead and consider who you'd want to have access to your health information to support you during a medical situation.

In compliance with HIPAA, your health information is private and can only be shared with third parties you authorize to have access to this information.

### What is HIPAA?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a federal law that mandates the process by which health care providers and health plans can share your health information with third parties including your family members and program administrators. The HIPAA Privacy Rule ensures that you have the right to decide who sees your health information and that information can be shared with the people with whom you want it shared.

### How does this apply to me while on a study abroad program?

GeoBlue's role is to support you through medical-related issues. Though nothing will interrupt the provision of necessary care to you, by law we cannot freely share information about medical conditions and related issues with third parties; this includes your parents (if you're over the age of 18) without the proper release. This release will provide us with permission to speak with specific third-party representatives while we coordinate care for you.

### How can I ensure my support team has the authority to speak to medical providers about my care?

To grant a parent, guardian, or school official access to claims data or other medical information managed through GeoBlue, please complete the HIPAA release form which can be found on [geobluestudents.com](http://geobluestudents.com). This form allows you to designate who would have access to your health information and what information you want shared with those identified parties.

**1** Don't wait for a medical situation. Plan ahead and decide what information should be shared and with whom.

**2** Complete the HIPAA release form.

**3** Share a signed copy with your program administrator, parent and/or other authorized individual.



**Complete the form today at**  
[geobluestudents.com/for-students-members](http://geobluestudents.com/for-students-members)

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**Questions?**

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