

PRIVACY AND YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

Your Privacy is Important to us

Providers and health insurers who are required to follow this law must keep your information private by

- Teaching how your information may and may not be used and shared
- Taking appropriate and reasonable steps to keep your health information secure

Most of us feel that our health information should be protected and we want to know who has this information. Now Federal Law

- Gives you rights over your health over information
- Sets rules and limits on who can look at and receive your health information

Your Health Information is Protected by Federal Law

Who must follow this law?

- Most doctors, nurses, pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and many other health care providers
- Health insurance companies, HMOs, most employer group health plans
- Certain government programs that pay for health care, such as Medicare or Medicaid

What information is protected?

- Information your doctors, nurses and other health care providers put in your medical record
- Conversations your doctor has about your care or other treatment with nurses and others
- Billing information about your clinic
- Most other health information about you held by those who must follow this law

The Law Protects the Privacy of Your Health Information

You should get to know these important rights, which help you protect your health information. You can ask your health provider questions about your rights. You can learn more about your rights and how to file a complaint at www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa

The Law Gives you Rights over your Health Information

Providers and health insurers who are required to follow this law must comply with your right to

- Ask to see and get a copy of your health records
- Have corrections added to your health information
- Receive a notice that tells you how your health information may be used and shared
- Decide if you want to give your permission before your health information can be used or shared for certain purposes such as marketing
- Get a report on when and why your health information was shared

If you believe your rights are being denied or your health information isn't being protected, you can

- File a complaint with your provider
- File a complaint with the U.S. Government

To make sure that your information is protected in ways that does not interfere with your health care; your information can be used and shared

- For your treatment and care coordination
- To pay doctors and hospitals for your health care and help run their business
- With your family, relatives, friends or others you identify who are involved with your health care, unless you object
- To make sure doctors give good care
- To protect the public's health
- To make required reports to the police

Your health information cannot be used or shared without your written permission unless the law allows it