



HIPAA Overview and Vaccine Administration

KEY POINTS

Review HIPAA overview, requirements, and laws.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

What is HIPAA?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191), familiarly known as HIPAA, established a national platform of consumer privacy protection and marketplace reform. Some key provisions include insurance reforms, privacy and security, administrative simplification, and cost savings.

What is the HIPAA Privacy Rule?

To implement HIPAA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") issued the "Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information" (the "Privacy Rule"), which established a set of national standards to address the use and disclosure of individuals' health information—called "protected health information"—by organizations subject to the Privacy Rule—called "covered entities"—as well as standards for individuals' privacy rights to understand and control how their health information is used.

Implications for Public Health

The Privacy Rule strikes a balance between protecting patient information and allowing traditional public health activities to continue. Generally, disclosure of protected health information without the authorization of the individual is permitted for purposes including but not limited to:

1. disclosures required by law (45 CFR § 164.512(a)) or
2. for "public health activities and purposes." This includes disclosure to "a public health authority that is authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events..., and the conduct of public health surveillance,... investigations, and... interventions." (45 CFR § 164.512(b)(i))

Definition of Public Health Authority

Defined as "an agency or authority of the United States, a State, a territory, a political subdivision of a State or territory, or an Indian tribe, or a person or entity acting under a grant of authority from or contract with such public agency, including the employees or agents of such public agency or its contractors or persons or entities to whom it has granted authority, that is responsible for public health matters as part of its official mandates." (45 CFR § 164.501)

HIPAA and Vaccine Administration

- [HIPAA and Access to Patient Records during IQIP & VFC Visits](#)
- [HIPAA and Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention](#)

For More Information

- [Office for Civil Rights – Health Information Privacy](#)
- [HIPAA Privacy Rule and Public Health](#)
- [HIPAA – General Information, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)
- [Understanding Health Information Privacy](#)

Related pages

- [HIPAA and Access to Patient Records during IQIP & VFC Visits](#)

- [HIPAA – and Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention](#)
- [IIS HIPAA](#)

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:

[National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases](#)