**Course: Advance Bio Informatics**

**Module Title: eHealth Privacy Concerns**

**Module No: 145**

Medical privacy or health privacy is the practice of keeping information about a patient confidential. This involves both conversational discretion on the part of health care providers, and the security of medical records. The terms can also refer to the physical privacy of patients from other patients and providers while in a medical facility. Modern concerns include the degree of disclosure to insurance companies, employers, and other third parties. The advent of electronic medical records has raised new concerns about privacy, balanced with efforts to reduce duplication of services and medical errors

**Privacy for research participants**

In the course of having or being part of a medical practice, doctors may learn information they wish to share with the medical or research community. If this information is shared or published, the privacy of the patients must be respected. Likewise, participants in medical research that are outside the realm of direct patient care have a right to privacy as well.

**Privacy:** claim of individuals to determine for themselves when, how, and to what extent information about them is communicated to others. Control over the release of identifiable personal information should rest with the data subject. Taking away this control from the data subject takes away his privacy.

Secondary use of concerns

Secondary use of identifiable health Information is the Information disclosed to one party for a particular purpose is subsequently used for other purposes, without authorization of the data subject.

**United States**

The most recent development in the USA is the Medical Information Privacy and Security Act (MIPSA). It contains important provisions requiring the generation of an audit trail of information being accessed, and allows patients the ability to partition their data so that, for example, genetic information is not revealed when they go for a flu shot. Individuals have a right to access, copy, edit and augment their information.

Privacy advocates in the United States have raised concerns about the switch from paper to electronic medical records. Some commentators fear this will lead to unauthorized access to personal data.

**Threats to Privacy**

**U.S. National Research Council:**

The National Research Council (NRC) is the working arm of the United States National Academies, which produces reports that shape policies, inform public opinion, and advance the pursuit of science, engineering, and medicine.

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1. National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
2. National Academy of Engineering (NAE)
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