



Mission Statement

Our mission is to advocate policies and practices that safeguard the privacy of patients and health care consumers while, at the same time, enabling the essential flow of information that is critical to the timely and effective delivery of health care, improvements in quality and safety, and the development of new lifesaving and life-enhancing medical interventions. We are committed to ensuring that consumers and thought leaders are aware of the privacy protections that are currently in place. And, as health care providers make the transition to a nationwide, interoperable system of electronic health information, we believe it is essential to replace the current mosaic of sometimes conflicting state privacy laws, rules, and guidelines with a strong, comprehensive national confidentiality standard.

About Us

The Confidentiality Coalition is composed of a broad group of hospitals, medical teaching colleges, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, vendors of electronic health records, biotech firms, employers, health product distributors, pharmacy benefit managers and pharmacies, health information and research organizations, and others founded to advance effective patient confidentiality protections.



Principles on Privacy

1. Confidentiality of patient medical information is of the utmost importance in the delivery of medical care. We must maintain the trust of the American patient as we strive to improve health care quality.
2. Patients' private medical information should have the strictest protection from others outside the medical delivery system and should be supplied only to those necessary for the provision of safe and high quality care.
3. The framework established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule should be maintained. HIPAA established a framework for acceptable uses and disclosures of individually-identifiable health information within health care delivery and payment systems for the privacy and security of medical information.
4. The Privacy Rule requires that health care providers and health plans use the minimum necessary amount of personal health information to treat patients and pay for care by relying on patients' "implied consent" for treatment, payment of claims, and other essential healthcare operations. This model has served patients well by ensuring quick and appropriate access to medical care, especially in emergency situations where the patient may be unable to give written consent.
5. Personal health information must be secured and protected from misuses and disclosures outside of HIPAA's acceptable uses for treatment, payment, and health care operations. Strict enforcement of violations is essential to protect individuals' privacy.
6. Providers should have as complete a patient history as is necessary to treat patients. Having access to a complete and timely medical record allows providers to remain confident that they are well-informed in the clinical decision-making process.
7. A privacy framework should be consistent nationally so that providers, health plans, and researchers working across state lines may exchange information efficiently and effectively in order to provide treatment, extend coverage, and advance medical knowledge, whether through a national health information network or another means of health information exchange.
8. The timely and accurate flow of de-identified data is crucial to achieving the quality-improving benefits of a national health information exchange while protecting consumer privacy. Federal privacy policy should continue the HIPAA regulations for the de-identification and/or aggregation of data to allow access to properly de-identified information. This allows researchers, public health officials, and others to assess quality of care, investigate threats to the public's health, respond quickly in emergency situations, and collect information vital to improving health care safety and quality.
9. To the extent not already provided under HIPAA, privacy rules should apply to all individuals and organizations that create, compile, store, transmit, or use personal health information.



CONFIDENTIALITY COALITION

Advancing Health Care. Safeguarding Trust.

2009 Steering Committee Membership

Aetna
American Hospital Association
America's Health Insurance Plans
Association of Clinical Research Organizations
Assurant
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
CVS Caremark
Federation of American Hospitals
Fresenius Medical Care
Greenway Medical Technologies
Gundersen Lutheran
Healthcare Leadership Council

IMS Health
Marshfield Clinic
Medco
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
Premier, Inc.
Prime Therapeutics
Texas Health Resources
United Healthcare
VHA
Walgreens
Wellpoint

General Membership

ACA International
Adheris
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Benefits Council
American Clinical Laboratory Association
American Electronics Association
American Managed Behavioral Healthcare
Association
Amerinet
AstraZeneca
American Pharmacists Association
Ascension Health
Association of American Medical Colleges
Baxter Healthcare
BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
Catalina Health Resource
CIGNA Corporation
Cleveland Clinic
College of American Pathologists
DMAA: The Care Continuum Alliance
Eli Lilly
ERISA Industry Committee
Food Marketing Institute
Genentech, Inc.
Genzyme Corporation
GlaxoSmithKline
Health Care Service Corporation
Health Dialog
Humana, Inc.

Integrated Benefits Institute
Intermountain Healthcare
Johnson & Johnson
Kaiser Permanente
Mayo Clinic
McKesson
Medical Banking Project
Merck
MetLife
National Association of Health Underwriters
National Association of Healthcare Access Management
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Community Pharmacists Association
National Rural Health Association
Novartis
Pfizer
Pharmaceutical Care Management Association
Quest Diagnostics
SAS
Siemens Corporation
Society for Human Resource Management
State Farm
TeraDact Solutions Inc.
Trinity Health
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Waldo and Associates
Wal-Mart
Wolters Kluwer Health