

HOW DOES HIPAA HELP PROTECT MY PRIVACY?

- It gives you more control over your health information.
- It sets boundaries on the use and release of health records.
- It establishes safeguards to protect the privacy of health information.
- It holds violators accountable.
- It enables you to find out how your information may be used and what releases of information have been made.
- It limits release of information to the minimum needed to accomplish the purpose for the release.
- It gives you the right to examine and obtain a copy of your health records and request that corrections or amendments be made.

The Privacy rule may be difficult to understand. We encourage you to discuss your concerns with our staff.

To obtain a copy of the HIPAA Privacy rule or for additional information about the rule contact:

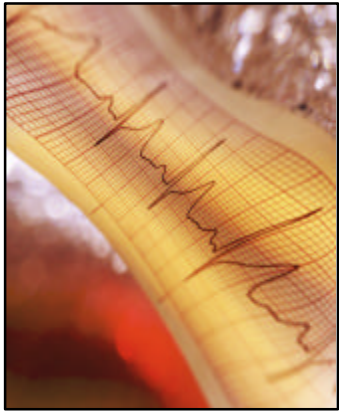
**The U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services**
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
202-619-0257
877-696-6775
www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa

WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT...

HIPAA PRIVACY RULE



Current federal healthcare law, called the **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Rule** provides specific requirements aimed at protecting your privacy.



This practice values the importance of trust and privacy involved in the physician-patient relationship and is committed to complying with

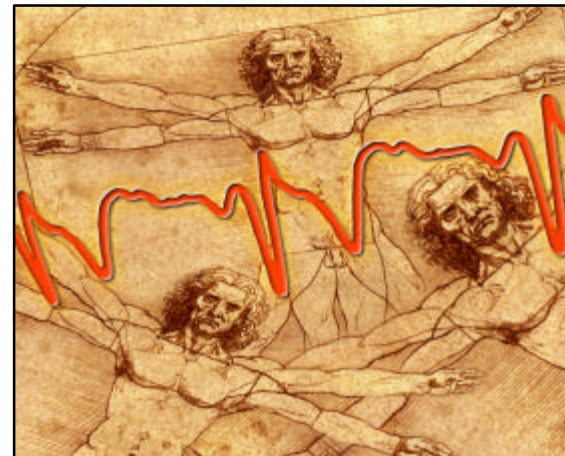
these and all other regulations pertaining to your privacy.

We have provided this general information about the Privacy Rule to help you better understand your privacy rights and our role in protecting those rights.

WHAT IS THE PRIVACY RULE?

The Privacy Rule is a federal law requiring doctors and others involved in providing your healthcare to develop procedures regarding the use and release of your health information. It requires that our privacy practices, called *Notice of Privacy Practices*, be shared with you. We are required by law to obtain your written acknowledgement that this Notice was shared with you.

The Rule permits the use and release of information necessary for your treatment, payment of your healthcare, and our healthcare operations. The Privacy Rule requires your consent before releasing your information for purposes other than your treatment, payment of your healthcare, and the healthcare operations of our practice.



COMMON TERMS

PHI - Protected Health Information

This includes any individually identifiable information about your past, present, or future physical or mental health or information related to the provision or payment of healthcare. Your personal information including social security number, birth date, and address are also protected.

TPO - Treatment, Payment, Operations

This refers to any activity necessary for:

- your treatment or care;
- payment of services, treatment, or care provided; and
- for operating the practice.