

HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability
and Accountability Act of 1996



What is HIPAA?

- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. This law is the first comprehensive Federal protection for the privacy of personal health information, passed by Congress in 1996, and implemented in April 2003.
- HIPAA compliance is mandatory



What is the purpose of HIPAA?

- HIPAA is a federal law enacted to:
 - Protect the privacy of a patient's personal and health information
 - Provide for electronic and physical security of personal and health information
 - Standardize coding to simplify billing and other transactions



Why do we need to know about HIPAA?

- If you see, use or share a person's protected health information or work directly with patients it is your responsibility to protect the privacy of the patient.
- As a Nursing Student at the University of St. Francis, you are expected to know, understand and comply with this federal regulation in all clinical settings.



Who must comply with HIPAA?

- HIPAA includes all entities that provide, bill or pay for medical care or process medical information. These include the following:
 - Health care providers
 - Health Plans
 - Clearinghouses
 - Business associates



What Health Information is Covered?

- Individually Identifiable Health Information which includes:
 - Any information that is:
 - Spoken
 - Written
 - Electronic
- Related to:
 - Treatment of physical or mental health conditions
 - Payment of healthcare
 - Healthcare operations

What is Protected Health Information (**PHI**)?

- Information that can be used directly or indirectly to identify an individual
- Includes Individually Identifiable Health Information (**IIHI**) such as:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Birthdates
 - Social security number
 - E-mail addresses
 - Account or Medical record numbers
 - Photographic images
 - Medical Record Numbers
 - Certification/License numbers
 - Phone or Fax numbers
 - Any “other” identifying number, characteristic or code



Notice of Privacy Practice

- Written information related to the privacy practices must be given to each patient.
- Information must include the covered entities' responsibilities and legal obligations as well as the patient's rights as they pertain to their PHI



How does this benefit patients?

- The goal is to assure individuals that their health information is being protected. It allows us to share pertinent health information while protecting our patient's privacy.



Health Care Provider Responsibilities...

- Secure patient records
- Take steps to limit use and disclosure of PHI
- Obtain authorization from a patient for use of PHI



What is Incidental Disclosure:

- It is a disclosure that cannot be reasonably prevented, is limited in nature and occurs as a result of otherwise permitted use or disclosure.
 - Example of permissible incidental disclosure : A bedside conversation overheard by the patient in the next bed.
 - Example of a NOT permissible incidental disclosure: Casual conversations about patients in the cafeteria, elevator, parking lot or classroom.



Disclosure of Protected Health Information

- Information that is related to a patient's health cannot be used unless authorized by the patient or someone acting on the patient's behalf
- Access should be limited to persons needing the information for legitimate purposes
- Information that is shared should be limited to the minimum necessary, that is, the least amount of information necessary to accomplish the request



So what does this mean for me?

- All clinical institutions expect that students are familiar with HIPAA and the Privacy Rule
- You are expected to follow these guidelines when accessing information and providing care to patients.
- You are held to the same standard as the licensed RN
- Infractions will be handled with ZERO TOLERANCE as according to the policy.



For more information...

- Review the United States Department of health and Human Services OCR PRIVACY BRIEF on the web at:

www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa



CONAH Policy on Disciplinary Action for Violations of HIPAA by Students

As a student in a health professions program of the University of St. Francis, you are required abide by the health information privacy requirements of a federal law called HIPAA.

Students will be informed of the requirements of HIPAA through required training when admitted to the nursing and allied health programs and throughout their clinical courses.

Reminders of these requirements occur at the course level include a Statement on the Privacy of Patient Information, developed in the college, which is printed in each course syllabus.

Confirmation

- You must click on the following link in order to acknowledge that you understand what you just read.
- <https://myusf.stfrancis.edu/portal/secure/college/nursing/forms/hipaa>