

HIPAA

Monthly Alert

FEBRUARY 2019

The Privacy Rule is balanced so that it permits the disclosure of personal health information needed for patient care and other important purposes.

The Privacy Rule does not require you to obtain a signed consent form before sharing information for treatment purposes. Liberty health care providers can freely share information for treatment purposes without a signed patient authorization.

The Privacy Rule recognizes that it is not practical to eliminate all risk of incidental disclosures. In August 2002, specific modifications to the rule were adopted to clarify that incidental disclosures do not violate the privacy rule when you have policies which reasonably safeguard and appropriately limit how protected health information is used and disclosed. However, Liberty expects all HIPAA data incidents to be reported through our incident reporting process to ensure that a thorough review has been made. All Liberty HIPAA Standard Operating Procedures can be viewed on the Employee Self Service.

The Privacy Rule requires that Liberty obtain satisfactory assurances from its business associates and that the business associates will appropriately safeguard the protected health information received or created on behalf of Liberty. The satisfactory assurances must be in writing, whether in the form of a contract or other agreement between Liberty and the business associate.

The minimum necessary standard requires Liberty to evaluate our practices and enhance safeguards as needed to limit unnecessary or inappropriate access to and disclosure of protected health information. The Privacy Rule's requirements for minimum necessary are designed to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the various clinical circumstances of Liberty's varied populations.

Reference:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/covered-entities/fast-facts/index.html>

Please look for next month's HIPAA alert delivered through your email. You can also find the HIPAA monthly alerts on Employee Self Service (ESS).

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