

HIPAA

Monthly Alert JANUARY 2019

The Privacy Rule does not cut off all communications between you and the families, friends, and clergy of patients. If the patient does not object, the Privacy Rule permits you to:

- Share needed information with family, friends, or anyone else a patient identifies as involved in his or her care.
- Disclose information when needed to notify a family member or anyone responsible for the patient's care about the patient's location or general condition.
- Share the appropriate information for these purposes even when the patient is incapacitated if doing so is in the best interest of the patient.

The Privacy Rule does not stop calls or visits to hospitals by family, friends, clergy, or anyone else. Unless the patient objects, basic information such as phone number, room number, and general condition can:

- be listed in the hospital directory;
- be given to people who call or visit and ask for the patient;
- be given to clergy along with religious affiliation--when provided by the patient--even if the patient is not asked for by name.

The Privacy Rule does not prevent child abuse reporting. You may continue to report child abuse or neglect to appropriate government authorities.

The Privacy Rule is not anti-electronic. You can communicate with patients, providers, and others by e-mail, telephone, or facsimile, with the implementation of appropriate safeguards to protect patient privacy.

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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