

HIPAA

Monthly Alert

JULY 2018

The standards for Privacy of Identifiable Health Information (Privacy Rule) establishes a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information.

All staff should understand the basic rights of patients/clients/beneficiaries, which include:

- Access to their clinical records at anytime
- The right to request changes to their Protected Health Information (PHI)
- An understanding that Liberty staff may amend their clinical records when appropriate
- Access to their PHI is limited to those on a need to know basis
- Unauthorized disclosure of their PHI will trigger a compliance investigation
- Records are maintained for any disclosure of any unauthorized PHI
- Copies of doctor and patient/client/beneficiaries' communication are protected by encryption
- Data use and disclosure of PHI is limited

A primary goal of the Privacy Rule is to ensure that patient/client/beneficiary health information is properly protected while allowing for the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality healthcare.

- **A balance must be struck to allow for the flow of information.** Our patients/clients/beneficiaries come to us for care and services. As clinical providers, it is essential that we communicate with one another best practices for providing care and services, while being mindful of information that is “need to know” and “minimum necessary”.
- **The Privacy Rule is designed to be flexible and comprehensive.** The right of privacy that your patients/clients/beneficiaries are afforded is the same right you want with your clinical providers.

References:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/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)

Should you have any questions regarding this alert please contact: Judith Ann Shields
Email: judith.shields@libertyhealth.com | Phone: 610.668.8800 ext.193



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