
HIPAA Authorization Form

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a federal law designed to establish national standards for the protection of sensitive patient health information. HIPAA ensures that patient information is kept confidential and is not disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge, except in specific situations as outlined by the law.

Permitted Uses and Disclosures

Under HIPAA, a covered entity is permitted, but not required, to use and disclose Protected Health Information (PHI) without an individual's authorization for the following purposes:

1. Disclosure to the Individual

- A covered entity must disclose PHI to the individual if the information is needed for access or accounting of disclosures.

2. Treatment, Payment, and Healthcare Operations

- PHI can be disclosed for purposes of treatment, payment, and healthcare operations without individual authorization.

3. Opportunity to Agree or Object

- A covered entity can obtain informal permission to disclose PHI by directly asking the individual, or by circumstances that give the individual the opportunity to agree, acquiesce, or object to the disclosure.

4. Incident to an Otherwise Permitted Use or Disclosure

- PHI may be disclosed incidentally to other permitted uses.

5. Limited Data Set for Research, Public Health, or Healthcare Operations

- PHI may be disclosed in limited form for research, public health, or healthcare operations when permitted.

6. Public Interest and Benefit Activities

- HIPAA allows PHI disclosures for certain public interest and benefit activities without the individual's authorization. These include:
 - When required by law
 - Public health activities
 - Victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
 - Health oversight activities
 - Judicial and administrative proceedings
 - Law enforcement
 - Deceased persons (e.g., organ, eye, or tissue donation)
 - Research (under certain conditions)
 - To prevent or lessen a serious threat to health or safety
 - Essential government functions
 - Workers' compensation

HIPAA Security Rule

While the HIPAA Privacy Rule protects the confidentiality of PHI, the **HIPAA Security Rule** specifically safeguards electronic Protected Health Information (e-PHI). e-PHI refers to individually identifiable health information that is created, received, maintained, or transmitted in electronic form.

The Security Rule requires covered entities to:

- Ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of e-PHI.
- Implement safeguards to protect against anticipated threats to the security of e-PHI.
- Safeguard against unauthorized uses or disclosures of e-PHI.

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- Certify compliance with these requirements by the workforce.

The Security Rule does not apply to PHI transmitted orally or in writing.

Compliance and Enforcement

Covered entities must rely on professional ethics and best judgment when considering requests for uses and disclosures of PHI. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights enforces HIPAA regulations. Violations of HIPAA may result in civil and criminal penalties.



Authorization to Release Medical Information

Patient Name

Date of Birth

I, _____, give authorization to River Oaks Primary Care PLLC and all personnel employed by River Oaks Primary Care PLLC to release my medical information to the recipients listed below:

Recipient Name	Relationship to Patient	Phone Number

I have read and understand the HIPAA policy and the permitted uses and disclosures. I agree to allow my healthcare providers to use and share my health information as necessary for my treatment, payment, and healthcare operations while protecting my privacy and confidentiality.

Patient or Legal Representative Signature

Date