

## What is HIPAA?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 is a multifaceted piece of legislation covering three areas:

### 1. Insurance Portability:

Portability ensures that individuals moving from one health plan to another will have continuity of coverage and will not be denied coverage.

### 2. Fraud Enforcement (Accountability):

Significantly increases the federal government's fraud enforcement authority in many different areas.

### 3. Administrative Simplification:

Ensures system-wide, technical and policy changes, in healthcare organizations in order to protect patient's privacy and the confidentiality of identifiable protected health information (PHI).

## What does confidentiality and privacy mean?

Confidentiality and privacy mean that patients have the right to control who will see their protected, identifiable health information (PHI). Communication about the patient health information should be limited to those who need the information in order to provide treatment, payment, and healthcare operations (TPO).

## What is considered identifiable protected health information (PHI)?

- Name
- Address Employer
- Date of birth
- Telephone number
- Fax number
- Email address
- Occupation
- Relative's name
- Social Security number
- Account number
- Certificate number
- Voice prints
- Finger print
- Photos
- Other personal information