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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Improving the health, safety, and well-being of America

Health Information Privacy

Understanding Health Information Privacy

The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides federal protections for individually identifiable health information held by covered entities and their business associates and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. At the same time, the Privacy Rule is balanced so that it permits the disclosure of health information needed for patient care and other important purposes.

The Security Rule specifies a series of administrative, physical, and technical safeguards for covered entities and their business associates to use to assure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic protected health information.

For Consumers



[Learn more about](#) how the Privacy and Security Rules protect your health information.

Omnibus HIPAA Rulemaking

➤ HHS announces a [final rule](#) that implements a number of provisions of the HITECH Act to strengthen the privacy and security protections for health information established under HIPAA.

For Covered Entities and Business Associates



[Learn more about](#) which entities must comply with the Privacy and Security Rules, the requirements of the rules, and guidance available to help these entities implement and maintain compliance with these requirements.

More Information About Health Information Privacy Under HIPAA



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- [Health Information Technology](#)
- [Genetic Information](#)

Related Links

[Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule](#)

[Summary of the HIPAA Security Rule](#)

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