

HIPAA Privacy Rules Pertaining to MH Vendors

HIPAA Privacy Regulations is a set of federal rules issued to protect the privacy of patient health information. The rules give patients the right against inappropriate use or disclosure of their information. It is important that vendors partner with Methodist Healthcare to protect these rights.

Patients are notified of their rights through our Notice of Patient Privacy. This document lets patients know how we may use or disclose their information. Patients have a right to request confidential communications, request a restriction on the use of their information, sign an authorization to release information, request a list of disclosures we have made of their information, and complain if they feel their privacy or confidentiality has been breached. Patients have other rights as well but the ones listed may impact you as a vendor of Methodist Healthcare.

We ask all vendors to sign a Methodist Healthcare confidentiality agreement to ensure the protection, confidentiality, and security of patient information. Vendors may only use or receive Methodist Healthcare protected patient health information for the purposes of treatment, payment, or the healthcare operations of Methodist. Participating in training programs or disclosing information subject to the jurisdiction of the FDA with respect to an FDA-regulated product or activity is permissible. Vendors doing work on behalf of Methodist Healthcare and receiving patient specific information would require a Business Associate Agreement. Other activities requiring patient specific information that could identify a patient would require a HIPAA compliant patient authorization signed by the patient.

The HIPAA Privacy Regulations require that we only disclose the minimum information necessary to get the job done. We request that you only request the minimum necessary information from Methodist Healthcare. We are also required to safeguard the patient information through being careful to prevent unauthorized persons from overhearing or seeing the information. We ask that you take care when faxing, e mailing, or disposing of documents with patient information.

Methodist Healthcare does not require vendors to get a 3rd party Privacy Certification. However if you fail to comply with our confidentiality and privacy expectations, we may terminate our relationship with you or report problems to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about HIPAA Privacy, please contact either the Methodist Healthcare Corporate Compliance & Privacy Office or the Legal Department.