



Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA)

How we protect our members' data

The primary goal of the **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** of 1996 is to protect the confidentiality and security of **healthcare** information and help the healthcare industry control administrative costs. The law provides detailed instructions for handling and protecting a patient's personal health information.

How our collection of medical records complies with HIPAA

The collection of risk adjustment data and request for medical records to validate that payments made to health care organizations comply with the privacy provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Therefore, a patient-authorized release of information is **not** required to submit risk-adjustment data or to respond to a medical record request.

About alcohol and substance use disorder data

Changes were made to the regulations on February 2, 2018 that no longer require patient authorization for disclosure of risk-adjustment data and medical records related to alcohol and substance use disorder.

However, when we request medical records that may contain alcohol and substance use disorder data before February 2, 2018, you must comply with the privacy provisions of 42 CFR Part 2 that require obtaining consent from the patient for certain services before release of this specific record set. You must obtain patient authorization before submitting risk-adjustment data and medical records for alcohol and substance use records for services rendered before February 2, 2018.

To access the following specific sections of the HIPAA privacy regulation, please visit:

hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/index.html

- Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information: 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 164
- Definitions: CFR References: 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart E, Section 164.501
- Uses and disclosures of protected health information: General Rules: 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart E, Section 164.502
- Uses and disclosures to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations: 45 CFR Part 164, Subpart E, Section 164.506