

# HIPPA 1996

Health Insurance Portability  
and Accountability Act.

Data  
Sheet

# HIPPA - 1996

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is federal law that required the creation of national standards to guard sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the HIPAA Privacy Rule to implement the wants of HIPAA. The HIPAA Security Rule protects a subset of data covered by the Privacy Rule.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule covers protected health information (PHI) in any medium.

The HIPAA Security Rule covers electronic protected health information (ePHI).

## Covered Entities

### Healthcare providers:

Every healthcare provider, no matter size of practice, who electronically transmits health information in reference to certain transactions.

### Health plans:

Entities that provide or pay the value of medical aid. Health plans include health, dental, vision, and prescription insurers; health maintenance organizations (HMOs); Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare + Choice, and Medicare supplement insurers.

### Healthcare clearinghouses:

Entities that process nonstandard information they receive from another entity into a typical (i.e., standard format or data content), or the other way around. In most instances, healthcare clearinghouses will receive individually identifiable health information only they're providing these processing services to a health plan or healthcare provider as a business.

### Business associates:

An individual or organization (other than a member of a covered entity's workforce) using or disclosing individually identifiable health information to perform or provide functions, activities, or services for a covered entity.

## Permitted Uses and Disclosures

A covered entity is permitted, but not required, to use and disclose protected health information, without an individual's authorization.

The Privacy Rule permits use and disclosure of protected health information, without an individual's authorization or permission, for following national priority.

- When required by law
- Public health activities
- Victims of abuse or neglect or violence
- Health oversight activities
- Judicial and administrative proceedings
- Law enforcement
- Functions (such as identification) concerning deceased persons
- Cadaveric organ, eye, or tissue donation
- Research, under certain conditions
- To prevent or lessen a significant threat to health or safety
- Essential government functions
- Workers compensation
- Limited dataset for research, public health, or healthcare operations

Visit <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html> for complete details of HIPPA.