



COMPLIANCE E-NEWS

Since the HIPAA Privacy Rule became effective in 2003, disclosures of protected health information (PHI) have required a patient's written authorization compliant with HIPAA regulation. The academic teaching environment presents unique challenges for protection of patient PHI but the federal regulations remain binding. The following information provides guidance and answers common questions specifically related to PHI/HIPAA in the academic environment.

SLU HIPAA Privacy – FAQ

PHI and Education Purposes (i.e. internal and external uses)

1. *Can PHI be used without a patient's permission to conduct training programs for our students, trainees, or practitioners?*

Yes. Saint Louis University physicians and staff can use and share PHI, without a patient's permission to teach medical residents, medical students, nursing students, and other clinical students or trainees.

2. *Are there any guidelines that must be followed when using PHI for education purposes?*

Yes. The use and disclosure must meet the following criteria:

- **Internal Use Only.** PHI must stay within Saint Louis University and Saint Louis University Hospital. PHI cannot be shared outside of Saint Louis University at professional meetings, conferences and lectures, or for non-SLU courses, etc.
- **Minimal Necessary Information:** The amount of PHI used must be the minimum amount necessary to conduct the training.

Example #1: on-campus lecture showing images of a gunshot wound or foreign object

Remove the patient name, medical record number, dates, and any other information that could lead to the identification of the patient that is not necessary to the training.

Example #2: grand rounds presentation/discussion about a patient's tumor

Only include information relevant to the case. Do not include the patient's name, medical record number or other identifiers if it is not necessary.

3. *Are there any guidelines that must be followed when using PHI externally for education purposes – national educational meetings or publications?*

PHI may not be used for external educational meetings/presentations, case studies, articles, industry conferences/lectures, posters, fliers, or media purposes without obtaining the patient's written authorization for the specific purpose. The signed authorization should be placed in the patient's medical record maintained by the department of Health Information Management (HIM).

Please notify the Privacy Office (rawsonr@slu.edu) or University Compliance Department at 314-977-5545 if you have any questions.

