

HIPAA Privacy Regulations: Talking Points

*** (Please tailor as appropriate for your organization.)

- **[HOSPITAL X] continues to respect the confidentiality of its patients' medical information.** We believe that patients have the right to have their medical information kept private, and the right to review their medical records and understand how their medical information will be used.
- **We use patient information to provide quality care to our patients; we carefully protect that information.** We balance protecting patient information with ensuring caregivers have the information they need to properly care for patients.
- **The federal rules provide patients with privacy rights** and national standards, such as the right to see and copy medical information about them. Some states already had medical privacy laws on the books; others did not.
- **Hospitals are committed to informing patients of their privacy rights.** Under the new rule, every patient will receive a written explanation of how the hospital uses and discloses their information, such as for treatment and to obtain payment for their care. For some uses, such as marketing, patients will first be asked for their permission before their information is used.
- **Within the hospital itself, patients will have greater control of their information.** The new rule lets patients choose not to be listed in the hospital's patient directory.
- **Hospitals are committed to making the medical privacy rule work for patients and those who care for them.** [HOSPITAL X] has provided extensive training and education about the new medical privacy rule to our medical care staff and all of our employees. We also have provided patient education. This is just one of the ways our hospital is working to enhance our patients' experiences and the quality of the care they receive at our facility.