

## Guidance: Posting of Allergy Information

### Posting Allergy Information

In general, the HIPAA regulations require us to eliminate posting patient care information outside of the patient's room to protect patient privacy. However, sometimes patient safety issues must supersede this. Since the hallway is a semi-public area, only information that has serious patient safety benefits should be posted.

The University of Chicago Medicine, HIPAA Privacy Program does allow the posting of environmental allergy information for items such as latex, cleaning chemicals, or even food exposure that could cause a reaction because the item in the presence of the patient alone can cause a great risk and patient safety is paramount. The posting should be generic (e.g. a picture or colored tab that is identifiable by only University of Chicago Medicine healthcare providers).

The posting of any other allergy information outside the door should not happen. Respect for patient privacy supersedes our convenience with having to check the patient's medical record. For example, rarely would it be necessary to post information next to the door regarding a patient's allergies to specific medication.

**Any questions/comments/concerns please feel free to reach out to the Privacy Program at:**

**773-834-9716 or [hpo@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:hpo@bsd.uchicago.edu)**