Research

The University of Chicago Medicine as an academic medical center promotes the study of information for internal improvement and community benefit. The HIPAA Privacy Policy A-05-35 Use of Patient Information for Research provides detail about how we use patient information for research purposes. Under HIPAA, research is defined as a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. The Office of Clinical Research has a companion policy, Use and Disclosures of Individually Identifiable Information in Research. It is important for the researcher to determine the purpose of the PHI use.

Patient information can be used and disclosed with the patient’s written permission and this written authorization can be combined with the research consent document.

Where a researcher can use De-identified Information or a Limited Data Set, he/she should do so, only requesting the minimum information that is necessary for the research. More information can be found in HIPAA Privacy Policy A05-22 Use And Disclosure of Limited Data Set and De-Identified Information. If a researcher utilizes completely de-identified information, then it is no longer subject to the federal HIPAA regulation.

UCM may use and disclose PHI for research purposes without patient authorization if (1) documentation is obtained indicating the Institutional Review Board approves a waiver, (2) the use or disclosure is for a review preparatory to research, or (3) the research involves decedent PHI.
Guidance: Research

When a researcher is using the patient protected health information of individuals outside of UCM, either alone or in combination with UCM patient information, the researcher is responsible for complying with the contractual obligations that apply to that information, including, if incorporated into the contract, the outside source’s policies and procedures to the extent they are provided to him/her.

Additionally, the use of patient information for research is also noted in our Notice of Privacy Practices.

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

773-834-9716 or hpo@bsd.uchicago.edu