A Message from the Compliance Department: HIPAA Privacy in Emergency Situations

Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, a patient's PHI SHOULD NOT BE DISCLOSED except under the following circumstances:

Between providers involved in the patient's treatment.





To prevent or lessen a serious or imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or public.

To Business Associates working on behalf of the covered entity.





For public health activities

A healthcare provider should get verbal permission from individuals prior to sharing information with any family member, friend, or any other person identified by the patient as involved in their care.

If an individual is incapacitated or not available, healthcare workers should use their professional judgment with the guidance of HIPAA regulations to determine whether information should be shared.