

HIPAA - The Grand Deception

HIPAA *does not* protect health privacy

Contrary to popular belief

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SIGN HIPAA “PRIVACY” FORMS

The HIPAA form is **only an acknowledgment** that you have received the clinic or hospital “Notice of Privacy Practices.”

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:

- You are **not** required to sign any form acknowledging that you received the notice.
- Signing **does not** mean that you have agreed to any special uses or disclosure of your health records.
- Refusing to sign the acknowledgment does not prevent the entity from using or disclosing health information.
- If you refuse to sign an acknowledgment, the provider must keep a record that they failed to obtain your acknowledgment.

Read more at: bit.ly/HIPAAnotice

Due to Federal Laws and Rules:*

- **2.2 million** entities (600,000 health care providers and 1.5 million business associates) can access your private medical records without your consent.
- State Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) have been created to share your medical records statewide and in the National Health Information Network, now called eHealth Exchange.
- Interoperable computerized medical records **allow your data to be shared** by health insurers, government officials, the data industry and others.
- The government has broad access to your medical records **unless a stronger state law exists**. HIPAA allows state laws to limit sharing and require consent.

* Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the federal HIPAA Privacy Rule, and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH, 2009)

TAKE ACTION

NOTE: Signing the HIPAA form **does not** provide you with any privacy or consent rights, but your signature could be **used against you** if you ever declare that your privacy rights have been violated. Clinics and hospitals could use your signature to argue that you knew your information could be shared.

Take action to protect your health privacy:

- **Refuse** to sign HIPAA acknowledgment forms.
- **Ask your state lawmakers** to pass legislation that protects you from HIPAA and protects your private medical records from being accessed by the government and others without your voluntary informed written consent.