

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIPAA IF YOU ARE INJURED

What is HIPAA?

HIPAA stands for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. It is a federal law that sets a national standard to protect medical records and other personal health information.

When did HIPAA become a law?

Congress passed this legislation in 1996. However, medical facilities had until April 2003 to be in compliance with HIPAA patient information regulations.

Is HIPAA applicable to all health care providers?

Yes, HIPAA applies to hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, laboratories, dentists, ambulatory surgery centers, business offices, etc.

What is considered "health information"?

Any information, whether oral, written, or electronic (computer). Information can be related to past, present, or future physical or mental health conditions.

What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?

The following is considered protected information about patients and their medical treatment: medical records, addresses, dates, telephone/fax numbers, social security numbers, patient account numbers, insurance plan numbers, photographs, fingerprints, e-mail/internet addresses. This includes oral disclosures of information regarding your treatment.

If Injured?

Your employer, nor its managers or supervisors, are allowed to be present when a physician or health care provider interviews you. Under the federal law, you may bar and prevent them from observing any part of your treatment, examination, or conferences with your physician or health care provider. Tell your employer or your employer's representative to leave the room or advise the doctor or nurse that you wish to enforce your rights under HIPAA and have them advise your employer or their representative to leave. It is important to protect your doctor/patient privileges.