



## Managing Information Privacy & Security in Healthcare

### HIPAA Privacy and Security Resources for Solo Practitioners and Small Group Practices

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The HIPAA Privacy and Security Standards are a challenge for all healthcare organizations. Solo practitioners and small group practices also face these challenges of finding reliable sources of information on what is required and then addressing the requirements within their limited resources. A wide variety of resources on the HIPAA Standards are available on the Internet. Particularly relevant are those sponsored by national, specialty, state, or county medical or dental associations.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) published two HIPAA Privacy Rule guidance documents in September of 2008 – one for health care providers and one for consumers. These discuss when a health care provider may share a patient's health information with the patient's family, friends, or others involved in the patient's care. These guides answer common questions about these permitted and important communications and target an area of the HIPAA Privacy Rule that is frequently misunderstood by health care providers and patients alike.

The provider guide is available at [http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/provider\\_ffg.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/provider_ffg.pdf).

The consumer guide is available at [http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/consumer\\_ffg.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/consumer_ffg.pdf).

State and national medical associations as well as national specialty associations often provide guidance for their members.

#### National Associations HIPAA Resources

[American Association of Health Plans](#)

[American Association of Medical Colleges](#)

[American Health Information Management Association](#)

[American Hospital Association](#)

[American Medical Association](#)

[Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society](#)