

# Essentials of Patient Privacy

Privacy is a legal, ethical, and professional responsibility of all UC San Diego Health team members.

## HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (**HIPAA**) is a federal law protecting patients' health information that sets standards for use, disclosure, and safeguarding of Protected Health Information (**PHI**).

PHI includes any identifiable health information such as name, address, dates, Social Security number, biometrics, photos, voice recordings, e-mail address, and IP address.

HIPAA protects PHI in any form: electronic, paper, or verbal.

## CMIA

The Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (**CMIA**) protects the confidentiality of individually identifiable medical information about a patient's medical history, treatment, or diagnosis obtained by UC San Diego Health.

CMIA works alongside HIPAA to enforce stricter privacy protections in California.

Patient trust is foundational to our mission of care, teaching, and research.

Upholding patient privacy prevents harm to patients, prevents loss of trust, and reduces risk of legal penalties and fines.

You are responsible for accessing only the minimum necessary information and only using patient information for authorized purposes.

Report suspected privacy incidents immediately to the Office of Compliance and Privacy:  
**hscomply@health.ucsd.edu | 844-234-7737**