

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Informational Links Regarding HIPAA:

Protecting the Privacy of Patients' Health Information

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/facts/privacy.html>

Health Information Privacy

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/index.html>

University at Buffalo Health Sciences Library HIPAA Web Site

<http://library.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/hsl/resources/guides/hipaa.html>

How HIPAA Influences Consumer Health Reference in Libraries:

Librarians must use extra caution when presented with protected patient information (such as copies of medical records)

The research process may need to be modified to protect patient confidentiality and the security of protected information

Communication (in-person, via phone and electronic devices such as email, chat, etc.) must be secure and personal information should be kept confidential

The collection and use of personal information by libraries must comply with patrons' right to confidentiality and security of medical information