

Name _____ Date _____



Health Informatics

Project 1.4 Topic: HIPAA Privacy Act

Materials Needed

- Student Information Sheet
- Patient Medical Record
- Student text
- Research resources
- Word processing program or paper supplies

Introduction

On June 16, 2008, you were working as an admitting clerk in the emergency room when an ABC Ambulance delivered Bradley Jones to the department. Because of the extent of his injuries, every staff person was focused on his immediate needs.

Five minutes into the process, a reporter from the local newspaper rushed in to gather information for a story to print in the morning edition. Although your first inclination was to give her what she wanted to get her out of your space, you had the presence of mind to remember your legal and ethical responsibilities for protecting patient privacy. Your supervisor recognized your ability to stay focused under pressure and has asked you to share your experience with your coworkers at a staff meeting.

Procedure

PART 1: Use the following thought starters to identify what part(s) of the law apply to your experience on June 16. Refer to the Privacy Rule section of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, also known as HIPAA, to identify specific principles that apply to your conversation with the reporter. You will find information at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/>. Share the logic that you used to communicate with the reporter.

- Your hospital administrator encourages establishing cordial but professional relationships with the media.
- The reporter said that the public's right to know has a foundation in the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

(continued)

Scenario 1: Motorcycle Crash

Name _____ Date _____

Project 1.4: *(continued)*

- The reporter said that she only wanted to confirm that Bradley Jones was receiving emergency treatment.

- The reporter said that the police department told her that the motorcycle at the scene belonged to Bradley Jones.

- While the reporter was in your work area, Bradley Jones' parents arrived and asked to speak with an attending physician.

- One of your coworkers put a note in front of you to suggest that the newspaper would get the information anyway, just tell the reporter that Jones was here. He said that the rules for confidentiality don't apply to an incident that has so much public exposure.

(continued)

Scenario 1: Motorcycle Crash

Name _____ Date _____

Project 1.4: *(continued)*

PART 2: Now that you've focused on confidentiality in the context of HIPAA, write a memo to your hospital administrator with suggestions for establishing a revised working relationship with the local newspaper to avoid future confrontations.

PART 3: For each of the four informatics health care workers featured in the student text, identify an example of a job-related task that would require them to understand and protect individually identifiable health information. Repeat the process with at least three other individuals from the text.

PART 4: Finally, make a statement to support or question health privacy requirements when health professionals are working with your personal health records or treatment. Share and compare with your classmates.