

HIPAA Compliance Statement

The University of Texas Houston School of Public Health (UTHSPH) has put into place many measures to certify its information technology program is compliant with the regulations and conditions set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Availability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). UTHSPH is committed to continually improving its available technology to become increasingly more secure and better capable of meeting the high demand of information access against the increasing demands for information security. This statement will identify certain facets of our compliance with the HIPAA security standards and regulations. For those entities wishing to obtain a more detailed matrix breakdown regarding our compliance program, please contact Derek Drawhorn, Director, Information Technology, at derek.d.drawhorn@uth.tmc.edu or at 713-500-9533.

Administrative Safeguards (HIPAA 164.308). UTHSPH has put numerous initiatives in place to provide for the appropriate assignment of access permissions to the appropriate person. Actions are in place to govern the movement of our workforce and the privileges associated with those movements. Information security awareness training is an annual mandated event for all staff, as well as annual review of contingency plans, audit trails, and security accreditation.

Physical Safeguards (HIPAA 164.310). UTHSPH and its data center are physically secure. Access to the building, floor, and data center are all independently controlled via card access at each level, preventing walk-up intrusion, especially after hours. The data center is above the first level of the building with no specific signage indicating its location, is monitored 24 hours a day with video surveillance, advanced fire protection systems, uninterruptible power, and emergency power for all systems, including refrigeration. Annual reviews of the facility security plan, disaster recovery plan, and contingency plans are in place. Specific workstation usage and security measures are in place. Policies are also in place to guard against equipment disposal and reuse which may inadvertently compromise sensitive information.

Technical Safeguards (HIPAA 164.312). UTHSPH complies with these regulations by enforcing unique user identifications, many varied audit controls, data integrity mechanisms, verified backups, entity authentication programs, including the expanding use of digital certificate technology for all staff, and increasing measures to provide better data integrity and encryption.

UTHSPH has carefully reviewed both the required and addressable security standards as put forth with HIPAA. In all matters, UTHSPH is moving toward full compliance with all measures as quickly as possible.