



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Newark, New Jersey

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL POLICY

SUBJECT:	COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY	TITLE:	PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION – DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL		
CODING:	831-200-959	ADOPTED:	June 13, 2013	AMENDED/ REVIEWED:	

I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy to ensure University Hospital's (UH) compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in the destruction and disposal of documentation containing Protected Health Information (PHI).

II. ACCOUNTABILITY

Under the direction of the President/CEO, the Department Heads shall ensure compliance with this policy.

III. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to health information that is generated during provisions of health care to patients in UH's patient care departments.

IV. DEFINITIONS

Protected Health Information (PHI): Protected health information means individually identifiable health information that relates to the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual, the provision of health care to an individual or the past, present or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual and identifies or could reasonably be used to identify the individual.

1. Except as provided in paragraph two (2) of this definition that is: a) transmitted by electronic media; b) maintained in electronic media; or c) transmitted or maintained in any other form or medium
2. Protected health information excludes individually identifiable health information in: a) Education records covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, as amended, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; b) Records described at 20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(4)(B)(iv); and c) Employment records held by a covered entity in its role as employer.

V. REFERENCES

- A. 45 CFR, 160, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 160, Subpart C, General Administrative Requirements, Compliance and Enforcement.
- B. 45 CFR, 164.514(e), Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Part 164, Subpart E, Security and Privacy, Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information.
- C. 45 CFR, 164.530, Code of Federal Regulation, Security and Privacy, Administrative Requirements.
- D. Records Management

E. Uses and Disclosures of Health Information
With and Without an Authorization

Policy #831-200-954

VI. POLICY

UH shall appropriately protect the privacy of health information that can identify an individual in compliance with federal and state law. UH will act responsibly in the maintenance, retention and eventual destruction and disposal of all material containing PHI.

The destruction and disposal of PHI will be carried out in accordance with HIPAA regulations and UH policy. All PHI will be destroyed in a manner in which it cannot be recovered or reconstructed.

VII. PROCEDURE

- A. The destruction/disposal of all PHI will be accomplished by shredding, incineration or other comparable fashion that ensures that the PHI cannot be recovered or reconstructed. Material that has been destroyed must be stored in a secure container or receptacle, which is not in a publicly accessible location, until such time that the material is collected by Housekeeping Services or an outside agency responsible for trash collection.
- B. Until such time as destruction/disposal of PHI is permissible, all PHI will be secured against unauthorized or inappropriate access.
- C. If utilizing an outside agency for destruction/disposal of PHI, a contract and a business associate agreement must be executed between UH and the outside agency. The contract must provide that upon termination of same, the agency will return or destroy/dispose of all PHI, including proof of destruction/disposal and the methodology by which the material was destroyed.

APPROVALS BY:	NAME:	SIGNATURE:
President/CEO	James R. Gonzalez	
Interim Chief Compliance and Audit Officer	John W. Ras	