

Law Enforcement Requests Disclosure of Patient Information

Type of Request	What can be disclosed	Accounting for Disclosure Y/N
Imminent danger: Law enforcement credibly demonstrates disclosure of patient information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety. The health care professional must believe in good faith that disclosure of PHI is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.	Release the minimum necessary information to lessen the threatened harm.	Y
Identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person	<p><u>Limited to directory information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name, • location, and • general health condition <p>if the patient is asked for by name, and the patient has not opted out of the directory</p>	Y
Violent criminals or escape from correctional institution	<p><u>Limited to the minimum necessary information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address; • Date and place of birth; • Social security number; • ABO blood type and rh factor; • Type of injury; • Date and time of treatment; • Date and time of death, if applicable; and • A description of distinguishing physical characteristics, including height, weight, gender, race, hair and eye color, presence or absence of facial hair (beard or moustache), scars, and tattoos.) 	Y
Follow up to cases for patients brought or caused to be brought to the hospital by fire, police, sheriff, or other public authority, or	<p><u>May provide the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and address • age, • gender, • Condition • diagnosis, or extent and location of injuries • if the patient was conscious when admitted, and • discharge date 	Y
Regarding patients treated for certain violent injuries	<p><u>Must provide</u> information listed above for follow up to cases, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the health care provider, and • If patient was transferred to another facility 	Y
Criminal conduct on premise: Information relates to a crime that occurred on hospital property	Release the information UW Medicine believes in good faith that the PHI constitutes evidence of criminal conduct that occurred on UW Medicine's premises.*	Y
Legal process: The officer produces a court order or court ordered warrant, a subpoena or summons signed by a judge or a grand jury subpoena.	Release the Patient Information per the court order warrant, subpoena or summons.*	Y
Authorization: The officer provides a HIPAA compliant authorization signed by the patient or patient's representative.	Release the Patient Information per the authorization *	N

* Without patient authorization or a court order, records relating to treatment for mental illness, substance abuse and records relating to testing or treatment for HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases cannot be accessed by law enforcement.

Documenting a Disclosure of PHI

UW Medicine Accounting of Disclosures Database: https://uwnetid.medical.washington.edu/disclosure_accounting/
(NWH workforce and VMC workforce, contact applicable HIM)