

The Beacon

Research Integrity News



Spotlight on HIPAA – Revisiting What it Means for Research

The Health Insurance Portability and Accessibility Act (HIPAA) – one of the main federal privacy and data security laws – has been around since 2003. At FAU, the effect of HIPAA on our daily lives has not been the same as academic medical centers, since we have largely been a social behavioral research institution until recent years. Now, FAU’s Presidential HIPAA Task Force, which convened last year, is re-directing attention to how we will comply with HIPAA at FAU.

Here’s what you need to know:

- Protected health information is oral, written or electronic information that is obtained in the course of a health care service by a “covered entity.” Covered entities include hospitals, nursing homes, doctor’s offices, recovery centers, etc.
 - FAU is a “Hybrid Covered Entity,” which means it has covered components within its organizational structure. Those components are:
 - Student Health Services
 - College of Nursing Clinics
 - College of Medicine
- *Faculty, staff and students in these units must have current CITI Health Information Privacy and Security training if they are working with protected health information for research. See the [CITI website](#) to register or to update your learner group.*
- HIPAA affects all aspects of FAU – billing, care of patients, marketing and fundraising, computer security, as well as research. FAU’s Division of Research oversees the research aspect of the HIPAA compliance program.
 - FAU’s Research Integrity office has a [HIPAA in Research web page](#). Check it out for more information on how it affects your research. This page will be expanded and updated over the coming months.

