



Patient Confidentiality & Medication-Assisted Treatment in California Primary Care Settings



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Confidentiality



"Whatever, in connection with my professional practice or not, in connection with it, I see or hear, in the life of men, which ought not to be spoken of abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret."

Oath of Hippocrates 5th Century B.C. (460-377 B.C.)







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Confidentiality/Privilege	
 COnfidentiality Clinician's Obligation to keep information secret PRivilege Patient's Right to bar information access 	
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Confidentiality/Privilege Addiction Treatment

- Medical Information – HIV/STDs
- Psychiatric Information
- Drug and Alcohol information
 - Requires separate subpoena AND judges order
- Each has own levels of protection

You are a primary care provider with an "X" waiver working in an FQHC and you are starting to offer buprenorphine-products to your patients you diagnose with DSM 5 opioid use disorder. Which is true?

- A. Your services always activate 42 CFR part 2.
- B. You services never activate 42 CFR part 2.
- C. If 42 CFR is activated depends on factors determined by you and the system you work in.

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"Holds itself out" is not defined in the regulations but could mean:

- state licensing procedures
- advertising MAT services
- posting notices in the office
- certifications in addiction medicine
- listing yourself or your services in registries of MAT providers
- internet statements saying you provide MAT
- information presented to patients or their families
- or any activity that would lead one to reasonably conclude that the provider is providing or provides alcohol/drug abuse dx, tx or referral.

From: SAMHSA On-Line FAQ revised 8/9/2016



How might this inform program design for MAT services if you would like to maintain a unified chart? (cont)

 For staff that are trained as addiction counselors, consider cross-training them in a broader set of skills (possible examples: MI, mindfulness, relaxation techniques, vocational/educational or housing support, etc.) This might move them into a broader scope of practice such as behavioral medicine counselor.

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You work in a FQHC that prides itself on providing whole-person care. Because of this you design a system to not "put out" in any way that you are providing MAT. How do you find patients?

- A. Word of mouth
- B. data mining in EHR
- C. brochures/outreach promoting your general medical services at needle-exchange programs
- D. Screen all patients for drugs/alcohol
- E. all of the above...

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You are a primary care provider in an FQHC and a patient doing well in a nearby methadone maintenance clinic comes to you asking to be transitioned onto a buprenorphine product. The patient fills out a ROI for her/his pertinent records from the methadone clinic to be sent to you. When they arrive:

- A. They can go in the general medical chart and require no "firewall".
- B. They must be kept behind 42 CFR part 2 "firewall" in the EHR.
- C. I don't know.

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- C. I don't know.

Contrasting HIPAA and Title 42 Requirements

HIPAA –Notices of Privacy Practices enables "TPO" disclosures without patient consent	<u>Title 42</u> -Disclosure prohibited without patient consent
 Patient personal representative "stands in patient's shoes" 	-Patient rights delegated only by court appointment of legal guardian
-No Limitations on Re-Disclosure	-Prohibition on re-disclosure
-Minimum necessary standard	-No disclosures except as needed to carry out purpose of disclosure
-Significant patient record access rights	-Significant provider discretion in sharing records 30

Contrasting HIPAA and Title 42, continued

<u>HIPAA</u>

-Disclosure to other treatment providers OK without consent for any treatment and to family (location, pt condition) in emergency

-Disclosure to public health authorities for disease control or exposed individuals permitted

-Liberal authorization standard for use by law enforcement with subpoena, with court order, or as required by law

<u>Title 42</u>

-Disclosure to *other treatment providers* without consent only in medical emergency

-Disclosure to public health authorities for disease control or exposed individuals requires authorization or court order

-Limited power for court-ordered authorized release (exceptions for child abuse/neglect and crime on premises)

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Federal Confidentiality (42 CFR)

Consent Form

- Name of program or person permitted to make disclosure
- Name or title of individual or organization receiving disclosure
- Name of Patient
- Purpose of disclosure
- How much and what kind of information
- Patient Signature
- Date of Signature
- Statement that consent is subject to revocation at any time to the extent that the program has already acted on it
- Expiration date, event, or condition

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- Federal laws establish the floor, not the ceiling, on privacy and data security requirements
- California state law gives rise to private right of action (*i.e.* lawsuits) in contrast to the lack of private standing to enforce federal law:
 - California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (CMIA) establishes a \$1,000 per violation penalty for failing to manage medical records in a manner that preserves their confidentiality
 - SB 1386 (Civil Code §§ 1798.29, 1798.82, 1798.84): any business that owns electronic data with "personal information" is required to disclose any breach of security to CA resident
- Less technical primary focus is on breach reporting and response readiness











Selected Resources

- In CA SB 482: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB482
- On SAMHSA Confidentiality FAQ page: http://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/laws/confidentiality-regulations-faqs
- Confidentiality Regulations FAQs | SAMHSA http://www.samhsa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/laws/confidentiality-regulations-faqs
- Medical Insurance Exchange of California (good practice guidelines) http://www.miec.com/default.aspx?tabid=8
- Medical Board of California (laws governing practice of medicine in California) http://www.mbc.ca.gov/About_Us/Laws/laws_guide.pdf
- 42 CFR Part 2
 - A good summary of changes http://www.cbhda.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/42-CFR-vk_v2.pdf
 - Text of 2016 Update https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/02/09/2016-01841/ confidentiality-of-substance-use-disorder-patient-records
- Fine Print: Rules for Exchanging Behavioral Health Information in California http://www.chcf.org/~/media/MEDIA%20LIBRARY%20Files/ PDF/PDF%20F/PDF%20FinePrintExchangingBehavioral.pdf

