

HIPAA Summary

The Health Information Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a Federal mandate enacted in 1996 to reform the health care industry by setting minimum standards for patient medical privacy, standardizing electronic transactions, and defining security requirements for information technology and physical environments.

The Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (the “Privacy Rule”), issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to implement the requirement of HIPAA, focuses primarily on protected health information (PHI), defined as individually identifiable health information, transmitted or maintained in any form or medium by a covered entity.

The Financial Reporting & Audits division is designated as a covered health care component within the County and must comply with HIPAA regulations. As such, employees of the division are trained annually on standards set as a byproduct of the act. Likewise, employees are held to the most stringent of standards related to the privacy of protected health information, as well as all other protected information transmitted through the division.

For more information, please visit the U.S. Health and Human Services’ [HIPAA](#) website.