

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES

Chapter 11	Patient Privacy Policies	Effective:	April 2003
Section 11.2	Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information	Revised:	February 2006
Policy 11.2.11	Uses and Disclosures for Specialized Government Functions	Responsibility:	Assistant Vice President for Regulatory Affairs & Compliance

USES AND DISCLOSURES FOR SPECIALIZED GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS

Policy

The Health Science Center may disclose protected health information without authorization for specialized government functions as described in this policy. These specialized government functions are:

1. military and veterans activities as described in this policy;
2. national security and intelligence activities;
3. protective service for the President of the United States and others as authorized by law;
4. medical suitability determinations;
5. a correctional institution or other law enforcement custodial situation; and,
6. governmental programs providing and/or administering public health benefits.

Definitions

DISCLOSURE: The release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulgence in any other manner, of information to any organization external to the Health Science Center.

USE: With respect to individually identifiable health information, the sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of such information within the Health Science Center.

Military and Veterans Activities

1. The Health Science Center may use and disclose the protected health information of individuals who are Armed Forces personnel for activities deemed necessary by appropriate military command authorities to assure the proper execution of the military mission, if the appropriate military authority has

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published by notice in the Federal Register the following information:

- a. Appropriate military command authorities; and,
 - b. The purposes for which the protected health information may be used or disclosed.
2. The Health Science Center may use and disclose the protected health information of individuals who are foreign military personnel to their appropriate foreign military authority for the same purposes for which uses and disclosures are permitted for Armed Forces personnel under the notice published in the Federal Register pursuant to the same guidelines that apply to U.S. Armed Forces.

National Security and Intelligence Activities

The Health Science Center may disclose protected health information to authorized federal officials for the conduct of lawful intelligence, counter-intelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

Protective Services

The Health Science Center may disclose protected health information to authorized federal officials for the provision of protective services to the President of the United States, foreign heads of state, or other persons as authorized by federal law, or for the conduct of investigations authorized by law.

Correctional Institutions and other Law Enforcement Custodial Situations

1. The Health Science Center may disclose to a correctional institution or a law enforcement official having lawful custody of an inmate or other individual protected health information about such inmate or individual, if the correctional institution or such law enforcement official represents that such protected health information is necessary for:
 - a. The provision of health care to such individuals;

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- b. The health and safety of such individual or other inmates;
 - c. The health and safety of the officers or employees of or others at the correctional institution;
 - d. The health and safety of such individuals and officers or other persons responsible for the transporting of inmates or their transfer from one institution, facility, or setting to another;
 - e. Law enforcement on the premises of the correctional institution; and,
 - f. The administration and maintenance of the safety, security, and good order of the correctional institution.
- 2. Any component of the Health Science Center that is affiliated with a correctional institution may use protected health information of individuals who are inmates for any purpose for which such protected health information may be disclosed.
 - 3. For the purposes of this provision, an individual is no longer an inmate when released on parole, probation, supervised release, or otherwise is no longer in lawful custody.

Government Programs Providing Public Benefits

Any Health Science Center department administering a government program providing public benefits may disclose protected health information relating to the program to another covered entity that is a government agency administering a government program providing public benefits if the programs serve the same or similar populations and the disclosure of protected health information is necessary to coordinate the covered functions of such programs or to improve administration and management relating to the covered functions of such programs.
