

## **PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF PATIENT INFORMATION**

The University of Connecticut School of Medicine (UConn SOM) and affiliated sites establish policies and procedures governing the privacy of patient's personal health information and to provide guidelines for the security and appropriately controlled release of such information, consistent with applicable federal and state laws, including the federal privacy rule.

The patient has a right to privacy (that is, the right to control access to his or her personal health information) and accept responsibility to keep secure and confidential the information collected about patients during their encounters with healthcare professionals. Releasing parts or all of that information is appropriate under certain circumstances, such as providing for continuity of care, participating in approved research and educational activities, complying with laws, and assuring reimbursement for services provided, and that such releases provide benefit to the patient and/or to society.

In the course of the resident's/fellow's employment, the resident/fellow will have access to confidential patient information that is protected from disclosure by both Connecticut and federal laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act ("HIPAA"). Confidential patient information specifically includes, but is not limited to, information relating to a patient's medical file and the physical or mental health condition, medical history or medical treatment of any patient or a member of the patient's family that is obtained by the resident/fellow, another medical professional, a medical care institution or other related institution. This includes any confidential patient information contained in written, oral or electronic form. Residents/fellows shall not disclose such confidential patient information except as may be required in the course of employment and as may be permitted by the applicable policies or procedures of any site in which the resident/fellow may train. Moreover, residents/fellows shall not have or gain access to confidential patient information, except as required, without prior authorization that complies in all respects with both Connecticut and federal laws, such as HIPAA.

For the UConn Health's full policy, refer to:

[http://health.uconn.edu/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2015/07/policy\\_2002\\_43.pdf](http://health.uconn.edu/policies/wp-content/uploads/sites/28/2015/07/policy_2002_43.pdf)

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