

Your Private Health Information and Research

Baylor College of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals have always been concerned about the privacy of your health information. Recently, a new law called the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act was put into effect to protect the privacy of health information throughout the U.S.

We want to make sure that you understand how your health information may be protected. Please read this information carefully and keep a copy for your records.

The data from the study may be published. However, you will not be identified by name. Your personal information will not be given out unless required by law. Everyone working with study information will work to keep your personal information confidential. People designated to ensure quality and provide medical care from the institutions where the research is being conducted, the sponsor, and people from regulatory agencies will be allowed to inspect sections of your medical and research records related to this study. Because of the need for the PI or study staff to release information to these parties, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

As soon as it is released for study participants to view, you can see and get a copy of the health information collected about you in this study.

After the study is completed, the investigator and study staff may need to keep your private health information from this research study so they may continue to review it.

You may decide that you no longer wish for your private health information to be used in the study. Telephone the study staff to tell them of this decision, and they will give you an address so that you can inform the investigator in writing. The investigator will honor your request unless it would affect the safety or quality of the research study.

Members of the Institutional Review Board for Baylor College of Medicine and Affiliated Hospitals (IRB) can also answer your questions and concerns about your rights as a research subject. The IRB office number is (713) 798-6970.