

<p align="center"><b>The University of Texas SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER At Dallas</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Privacy Compliance Program Privacy Manual</b> Section 7: Standard Protocols for Uses, Disclosures and Requests of PHI Policy No: 7.7 Last Revised: April 11, 2003 Effective Date: April 14, 2003</p>
<p align="center"><b>Medical Examiners</b></p>	

**POLICY:**

UT Southwestern may disclose PHI to medical examiners as required by law in accordance with this standard protocol.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Authority. UT Southwestern Workforce may disclose a decedent’s PHI to the county medical examiner to enable the medical examiner to identify the decedent, determine the cause of death, or perform other duties as authorized by law, without prior written authorization.
  
2. Minimum Necessary Rule.
  - a. Generally. The minimum necessary rule does not apply to disclosures to medical examiners that are required by law. Workforce will take precautions to ensure that the disclosure does not exceed the scope of the disclosure required by law. (Questions regarding the scope of disclosures to Medical Examiners should be directed to the Privacy Officer or designee.)
  - b. Reliance. UT Southwestern may rely on the representations of the medical examiner’s office that the PHI requested in connection with the medical examiner’s activities is the minimum necessary to achieve the intended purpose.
  - c. Entire Medical Record. There may be situations where disclosure of the entire medical record shall be necessary for medical examiner’s activities, but these disclosures must have a documented justification.
  
3. Verification. UT Southwestern Workforce will obtain verification of the recipient from the medical examiner’s office, in accordance with Section 6.5 of this Manual, which sets forth the policy and procedure for Verification for PHI Disclosures.

---

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

45 C.F.R. § 164.512(g) (2001)