

<p><b>The University of Texas SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER At Dallas</b></p>	<p><b>Privacy Compliance Program Privacy Manual</b> Section: Patient Permission Policy No: 3.4 Last Revised: _____ Effective Date: April 14, 2003</p>
<p><b>Disclosures for Disaster Relief Efforts</b></p>	

**POLICY:**

UT Southwestern permits certain disclosures of an Individual's PHI, without prior written authorization from the Individual, to public or private entities, authorized by law or its charter to assist in disaster relief efforts, only in limited circumstances as described in this policy.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Disclosures to Disaster Relief Organizations.
  - a. UT Southwestern University Hospitals may use or disclose an Individual's PHI to a public (federal, state, or local) or private entity (e.g., the American Red Cross) authorized by law or by its charter to assist in disaster relief efforts (e.g., floods, fires, terrorist attacks, etc.) for the purpose of coordinating with such entities to notify the Individual's family members, personal representatives or other persons responsible for the Individual's care, of the Individual's location, general condition, or death, in accordance with the UT Southwestern Emergency Operations Plan.
  - b. Other UT Southwestern Workforce may not, without prior written authorization from the Individual, disclose PHI to the American Red Cross or other non-governmental disaster relief organizations.

2. Disclosures to Inpatient Facilities. UT Southwestern may disclose an Individual's PHI to an inpatient facility that is treating the Individual in the event of a disaster for purposes of assisting in the treatment of that Individual.
3. Workforce Members at Other Health Care Facilities. UT Southwestern Workforce members who are providing health care services at other health care facilities should follow the policies and procedures of that facility with regard to disclosures for purposes of disaster relief efforts.

---

**LEGAL REFERENCES:**

Texas Occupations Code § 159

45 C.F.R. § 164.510(b) (2001)

65 Fed. Reg. 82462, 82498, 82501, 82521-24, 82795 (Dec. 28, 2000); 67 Fed. Reg. 53182-273 (Aug. 14, 2002)

**RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES:**

<insert intranet links to other departments policies and procedures>