

COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY MATTERS

DPH Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs – April 2024

HIPAA Compliance – The “Minimum Necessary” Rule



The “Minimum Necessary” Rule:

- The HIPAA “minimum necessary” rule applies to uses and disclosures of protected health information (PHI) that are permitted under the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
- This includes the accessing of PHI by healthcare professionals and disclosures to other providers, staff, business associates, and other covered entities.
- Under the HIPAA minimum necessary rule, you are required to make reasonable efforts to ensure that uses and disclosures of PHI is limited to the minimum necessary information to accomplish the intended purpose of a particular use or disclosure.
- The HIPAA minimum necessary standard applies to all forms of PHI, including physical documents, spreadsheets, films and printed images, electronic protected health information, including information stored on tapes and other media, and information that is communicated verbally.

Remember to only disclose to other providers and DPH workforce members patient PHI that is necessary for them to know in order to complete their job-related task.

OCA COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY HOTLINE
855.729.6040 – compliance.privacy@sfdph.org



SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs

