COVERED ENTITIES, AND HIPAA

OR: HOW WE LEARNED TO WORRYING AND LOVE THE PHI

RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED ARCHIVAL RECORDS

- The archivist must weigh the risks of making personal information or confidential institutional records accessible
- Options
 - Redacting the sensitive information in the document
 - Restricting entire document
 - Not accepting documents that contain sensitive or confidential information

HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA)

- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
 was enacted in 1996 to improve the efficiency and
 effectiveness of the healthcare system
- First set of proposed "Code Set" standards published in 1999
- First proposals for the Privacy Rule emerged in 2000; modified in August 2002
- Compliance of this rule was required in April 2003 by individuals, organizations, and agencies that met the definition of covered entity.

HIPAA AND COVERED ENTITIES

What is a covered entity?

- Health care providers
- Health plans
- Health care clearinghouses

Personal Health Information (PHI) or 18 HIPAA identifiers includes**:

- Names
- Addresses
- Dates, except year
- Social Security Number
- Medical record number
- Full-face photographs and any comparable images

**Consult resources (slide at end) for full list of identifiers

HIPAA OMNIBUS RULE OF 2013

- Records with PHI are legally available 50 years after the patient's death.
- Must have the death date of the individual to makes these records available
- Trying to find the death date of each individual that has PHI in an archival collection can before burdensome

RESTRICTED!

HIPAA in collections always equals restrictions

COLLECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY RECORDS





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WALTER KEMPNER PAPERS AND RECORDS





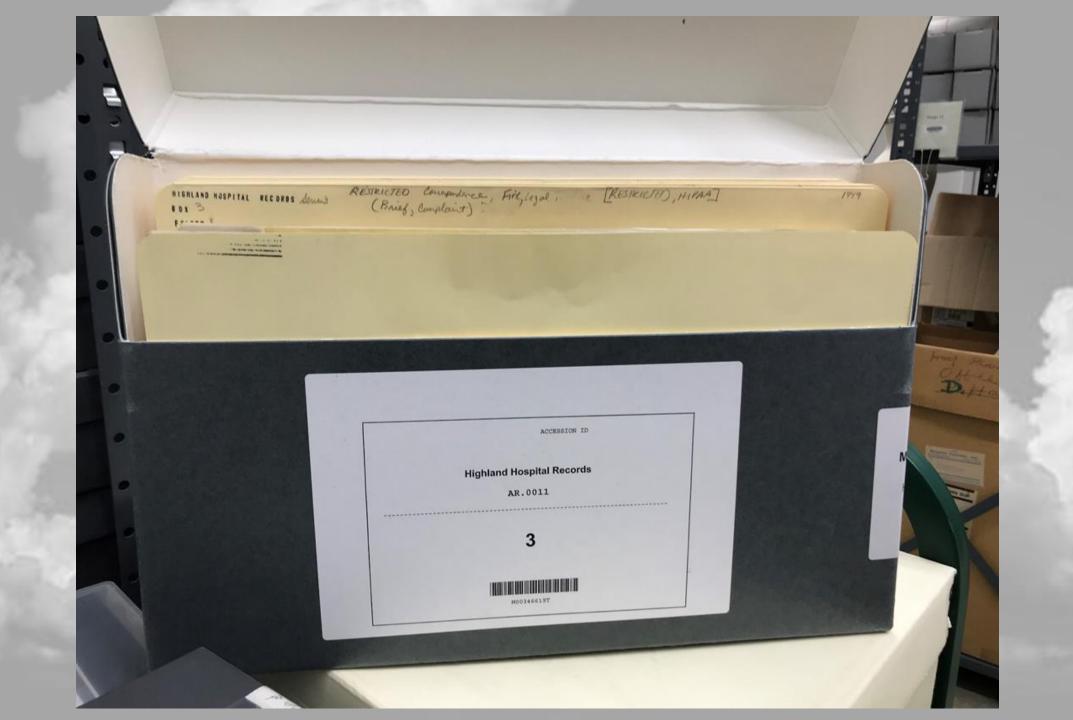
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PROCESSING AS A COVERED ENTITY

- Access is always the goal
- Historic risk adverse mentality combined with More Product Less Process (MPLP)*
- Indicated but did not separate PHI
- Pushed researchers towards the IRB approval.

*MPLP at a medical archives is an entirely different presentation

Correspondence: Medical Director, Bennett, B.T., 1946 correspondence: Fire, Legal, 1949



REPROCESSING FOR ACCESS: HIGHLAND HOSPITAL RECORDS

- Extent: 4.3 Linear Feet (2 cartons, 1 half manuscript box, 1 map folder, 1 map tube)
- PHI identified in
 - Correspondence
 - Financial Statements
 - Medical Director Reports
 - Minutes and Board Correspondence
- All PHI moved to a Restricted Series

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY RECORDS





Lucy Waldrop (left) and archives intern, Kahlee Leingang (right) pack up the Department of Neurosurgery materials

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY RECORDS

- New collection
- Extent: 12.34 Linear Feet (1 half manuscript box, 15 card boxes, 152 film canisters, 1 audio box) and 1 artifact
- PHI identified in
 - Notecards
 - 16mm film reels
 - Audio reel



DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY RECORDS

[Patient Information Removed], Ocular, Pain Pt., [Patient Information Removed], 1968-1969	Box Reel 62
[Patient Information Removed], Thalamic Syndrome, 1969	Box Reel 63
[Patient Information Removed], Pain Films, Dr. B. S. Nashold, undated	Box Reel 64
[Patient Information Removed] (13), undated	Box Reel 65
[Patient Information Removed], Drug Toxicity - Antabuse, [Patient Information Removed], undated	Box Reel 66
[Patient Information Removed], Ear Irrigation Trauma, [Patient Information Removed] (1), February 11, 1971	Box Reel 67
[Patient Information Removed] (18), 1969	Box Reel 68
Unidentified Film 10 (Strip Missing), undated	Box Reel 69
[Patient Information Removed], undated	Box Reel 70
[Patient Information Removed], Segment Missing on Epilepsy Movie, [Patient Information Removed], undated	Box Reel 71
[Patient Information Removed], January 25, 1971	Box Reel 72
[Patient Information Removed], December 19, 1969	Box Reel 73
Va Pts. [?] [Patient Information Removed], undated	Box Reel 74
Parkinson Pre & Post Op, [Patient Information Removed]; [Patient Information Removed] (DT), undated	Box Reel 75
Parkinson No [5/S?]: [Patient Information Removed]; [Patient Information Removed]; [Patient Information Removed], 1962	Box Reel 76
[Patient Information Removed], Parkinson, 1961-1962	Box Reel 77
Pre & Post. Op: [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson; [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson; [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson, 1961-1962	Box Reel 78
Pre & Post Op:[Patient Information Removed], Parkinson; [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson, 1961-1962	Box Reel 79
Pre & Post Op: [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson; [Patient Information Removed], Parkinson, 1961-1962	Box Reel 80
Unidentified Film 11, 1961-1962	Box Reel 81



CONCLUSIONS FOR PROCESSING

- Identifying and restricting PHI at the time of accessioning and processing, gives the archivist more control over the records
- Processing materials with PHI requires more effort on the front end and is not always ideal or doable based on staffing and resources
- If you are able to spend the time identifying and segregating records with PHI, the end result is
 - the non-HIPAA content is easily accessible
 - the HIPAA content is made discoverable and available—with proper IRB approval—for future research.

CONCLUSIONS FOR ACCESS

- All collections are different and every research project is different!
- Good reference interviews are important.
- Understand what you can and cannot do and WHY and then be able to clearly articulate both.
- Find other people at your institution to support you.
- Do your due diligence, document everything well, and then don't stress!

RESOURCES

Archival Collections:

- Walter Kempner Papers and Records, Duke University Medical Center Archives.
- Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Records, Duke University Medical Center Archives.
- Highland Hospital Papers, Duke University Medical Center Archives.
- Department of Neurosurgery, Duke University Medical Center Archives.

HIPAA Resources:

- https://www.hipaaguide.net/hipaa-for-dummies/
- https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/index.html
- https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/lawsregulations/combined-regulation-text/omnibus-hipaarulemaking/index.html

YEEHAW!



CONTACT US!

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