

**Title: PATIENT PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY**

Document Owner: Chris Stefaniak	PI Team: N/A	Date Created: 04/01/2000
Approver(s): Karyn Delgado, Teresa Onken	Date Approved with no Changes: 12/19/2018	Date Approved: 12/19/2018 05/01/2000
Location: Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRCM)		Department: Medical Staff Services

**Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.**

**POLICY:**

1. Although the information contained within the medical record is the property of the patient, the medical record file is the property of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Inc. Medical staff members are responsible to protect the confidentiality of all information within each medical record.
2. Confidentiality is not just a legal issue, but also a matter of ethics. All codes of ethics have statements that refer to safeguarding the right to privacy by judiciously protecting confidential information given by the patient. According to such codes, all assessments and treatments are to be performed discreetly (maintenance of privacy) and all communication and records are to be treated in a confidential manner.
3. Patient information should only be released as provided for by legal authorization.
4. Violations of confidentiality include verbalized statements disclosed to any persons other than those who are directly involved in the care of the patient. Additionally, unless a proper professional relationship exists, review of written information concerning a patient's diagnosis, prognosis, treatments and procedures occurring in the past, present, or in the future, and data contained within the computerized (data-based) hospital system is prohibited.
5. Violations of confidentiality are deemed detrimental to the delivery of quality patient care

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Any Medical Staff member who violates patient confidentiality is subject to corrective action.
- B. Alleged violations will be investigated and addressed through the corrective action process as provided by the Medical Staff Bylaws Credentials Policy (Article 6).

**References/Standards:**

- Statements regarding confidentiality appear in such publications as the HIPAA Privacy Policy, Patient's Bill of Rights developed by the National League of Nursing, the Hospice Association of America, the American Hospital Association, and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- Policy Origin Date: April 2000
- Review Date: December 2009, December 2012, December 2015, December 2018
- Revised Date:
- Effective Date: May 2000
- Reviewed/Recommended By: Medical Executive Committee
- Policy 83