

Notification of Electronic Hospital Medical Record Review

Medical providers may be credentialed at multiple Oahu hospitals that provide immediate electronic access to prior laboratory results, radiographic test results, prior outpatient consultation notes, and inpatient admission notes. These records may include psychiatric, social, and family history in addition to medical history that are integral to understanding and treating the "Whole" patient, not an isolated medical problem. These electronic records are used to create detailed and comprehensive data bases to arrive at assessments which will be documented in the medical record and used for treatment plans. A written patient consent is not required to access these records once you request to be seen and treated by a specified medical provider. The medical provider may review these electronic records in preparation prior to your first appointment once an appointment is scheduled and at anytime thereafter for continuing care. You have the right to correct information in your medical record that is inaccurate and may request that certain information not appear in your medical record notes but it is at the discretion of the medical provider to exclude this information if the information is accurate. In addition your medical provider may share this information with other medical providers with whom you hold an active treatment relationship without your written consent. Please ask your medical provider(s) if you have any concerns about collecting electronic medical information, its documentation, or sharing with other medical providers. The questions and answers below reflect current Queens Medical Center HIPAA policy taken from the website as of Aug 2011 as constrained by current privacy laws for your reference and may be subject to change of laws.

Question: Does a provider need a patient's written authorization to send a copy of the patient's medical record to a specialist or other health care provider who will treat the patient?

Answer: No. The HIPAA Privacy Rule permits a health care provider to disclose protected health information about an individual, without the individual's authorization, to another health care provider for that provider's treatment of the individual.

At Queen's, we verify the treatment relationship in two ways.

1. We look to see if the provider requesting the information is documented in the medical record as being involved in the treatment of the patient (took care of the patient during the hospitalization, was the referring physician, PCP or follow-up physician).
2. If there is no documentation of the treatment relationship, we ask the requesting provider to fax a request for the information to us. The request should contain minimally the name of the patient, some kind of statement or request of information for treatment and either the signature or letterhead of the requesting provider. QMC has a provider request for information for treatment form on the QMC intranet (under HIPAA/forms) that can be used.

Question: Can health care providers consult with other providers about a patient's condition without the patient's written authorization?

Answer: Yes. Consulting with another health care provider about a patient is within the HIPAA Privacy Rule's definition of "treatment" and, therefore, is permissible. In addition, a health care provider (or other covered entity) is expressly permitted to disclose protected health information about an individual to a health care provider for that provider's treatment of the individual.