

Confidentiality in allied health



1. Should Corrections be date and time stamped?

Yes, According to the “ American Medical Association” medical record should be date, and time stamped and identifying the corrector or the person that make any changes of any sort. In today legal matter all correction in medical record should be dated, time and stamped.

2. When should a patient be advised of the existence of computerized databases containing medical information about the patient?

According to the AMA Policy, the patient should be advised of the existence of computerized databases containing medical information about the patient. This should be communicated to the patient before the physician releases the records to the company or companies storing the information. A patient has the right to know where their records are being stored. They also have the right to know who has access to their medical records.

3. When should the patient be notified of the purging of archaic or inaccurate information?

The AMA Policy states that the procedures for purging archaic or inaccurate information should be established. The patient should be notified before the purge takes place. In addition, the patient should also be notified when the purge is complete. This gives the patient a chance to get a hard copy of the information before it is lost forever

4. When should the computerized medical database be online to the computer terminal? The computerized medical database is online to the computer terminal only when authorized computer programs requiring the

medical data are in use. External individuals or organizations should not have online access to these databases. Access should be controlled through security measures. Some examples of these security measures are encryption of the file, passwords to gain access to the file, or other user identification.

5. When the computer service bureau destroys or erases records, should the erasure be verified by the bureau to the physician?

6. Should individuals and organizations with access to the database be identified to the patient?

7. Does the AMA ethics opinion mention encryption as a technique for security?

8. In regard to electronic medical records (EMRs) , what is the policy for disclosing authorized data requested by third parties?