



## Doing Business with DHS Under HIPAA Privacy Rules

HIPAA Privacy Rules require that the entire health care community adhere to regulations designed to protect the privacy and security of individually identifiable health information.

The HIPAA law was not intended to be a barrier between covered entities that need to conduct business. Under HIPAA, health organizations can continue to conduct business and exchange health information that is necessary for functions that are considered **Treatment, Payment, and Health Care Operations**. The Privacy Rule defines these terms.

Under the law, functions relating to **treatment, payment, and operations (TPO)**, do not require authorization or consent from the client or participant. TPO also does not require DHS to enter into a Business Associate Agreement for the purpose of conducting these functions.

Keeping clients' records confidential and private has always been a priority for the department. The HIPAA law has prompted DHS together with the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to delve into this issue. Working for more than two years the department developed policies, procedures, and safeguards to insure that information is kept private and confidential and meets the new rules.

If you have received this memo and are still uncertain of your ability to send the information that the department has requested, please contact the DHS HIPAA Privacy Officer at 503-945-5851 or by email at [dhs.privacyhelp@state.or.us](mailto:dhs.privacyhelp@state.or.us)