Protected health information disclosures for treatment purposes

**THE MYTH**

HIPAA requires that health care providers obtain patient authorization to disclose protected health information (PHI) for treatment purposes.

**DEBUNKING THE MYTH**

Apart from psychotherapy notes—in which specific requirements apply—health care providers are not required to procure authorization or consent from patients to disclose PHI to another clinician or clinical entity for treatment purposes under HIPAA, as the HIPAA Privacy Rule permits such disclosures to facilitate patient care.1,2,3

**AMA Policy**

Patient Privacy and Confidentiality H-315.983

**Resources**


**References**


**Debunking Regulatory Myths overview:** Visit the overview page for information on additional myths.

**Disclaimer:** The AMA’s Debunking Regulatory Myths (DRM) series is intended to convey general information only, based on guidance issued by applicable regulatory agencies, and not to provide legal advice or opinions. The contents within DRM should not be construed as, and should not be relied upon for, legal advice in any particular circumstance or fact situation. An attorney should be contacted for advice on specific legal issues