



Title: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
Issuing Authority: Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance
Policy Contact: University HIPAA Privacy Officer, 478-301-2300

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, was enacted by Congress to address healthcare reform, administrative simplification and patient healthcare information privacy and security issues.

Simplified, it was established to:

- Allow portability of pre-existing condition exemption between employer health insurance group plans.
- Standardize electronic transactions in healthcare to reduce costs through adjustments in record formats, code sets, identifiers, eligibility, referral, claims, remittance, etc.

There are several related policies:

- Access, Amendment & Accounting of Disclosures
<https://policies.mercer.edu/access-amendment-and-accounting-of-disclosures-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>
- Business Associates Policy
<https://policies.mercer.edu/business-associates-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>
- Communication of Health Information
<https://policies.mercer.edu/communication-of-health-information-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>
- Marketing and Fundraising
<https://policies.mercer.edu/marketing-and-fundraising-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>
- Notice of Privacy Practices
<https://policies.mercer.edu/notice-of-privacy-practices-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>
- Notification and Authorization
<https://policies.mercer.edu/notification-and-authorization-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>

- Uses and Disclosures of Health Information
<https://policies.mercer.edu/uses-and-disclosures-of-health-information-hipaa-general-operating-policy/>