

## <u>Patient Health Information that is</u> <u>Protected:</u>

- Patient's personal information such as address and and birthday
- Patient's mental or physical health
- Patient's past healthcare services
- Patient's payment for healthcare services

## When Patient Info Can be Shared...

- Providing information needed for payment of benefits or health coverage
- Disclosing information to specific agencies as required by public health laws
- Complying with workers' compensation laws
- Providing information for legal proceedings
- Providing law enforcement agencies with information
- Assisting a patient's legal guardian if the patient is under 18
- Assisting in the event of a disaster in updating family on patient status
- Assisting coroners or medical examiners identify a body and determine cause of death.

## **Steps to protect health data:**

- Digitally: Communication is permitted but messages can only be left with family members with the patient's consent.
- Information sharing: Professionals cannot hare patient information with people who are not working with the patient
- Record Storage: Do not leave files in public spaces
- Do's and Don'ts: Make sure to speak quietly so that you are not overheard and do not speak about patient's with identifiable info



Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

