

What is a HIPAA Representative?

A HIPAA Representative is a person named by a patient granting authority to have access to the patient's Protected Health Information (PHI). The form was created in response to requests by patients that they have a way to document family members or friends who are involved in caring for or facilitating the patient's care. For example, a patient may want their spouse or adult child to assist in billing questions, to book appointments on their behalf or to be appraised of their health status. The form assures that we have a record of the patient's wishes in this regard and are able to share information in accordance with that request.

Is there a form that needs to be completed and signed?

The HIPAA Representative form must be completed and signed by both the patient and the designated HIPAA Representative. Note that it is important that all appropriate and applicable blanks be filled.

Where can I locate a HIPAA Representative form?

The HIPAA Representative form can be found at:
<http://hipaa.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/5031-FR-HIPAA-Rep.pdf> or you may contact the HIPAA Privacy Office at 203-432-5919.

Does a HIPAA Representative have access to all of the named patient's medical records?

The HIPAA Representative Form allows the patient to specify if access to all the records is being granted or if the patient wants to limit access to a specific health care incident(s).

Does completing and signing the HIPAA Representative form give the HIPAA Representative authority for all the named patient's health care decisions?

Completing and signing the HIPAA Representative form does not give the HIPAA Representative authority to make health care decisions for the patient. It does allow the HIPAA Representative to have access to the patient's protected health information (PHI).

Who can act on behalf of a patient to make health care decisions?

A Personal Representative who has been granted legal authority to act on behalf of an incompetent adult patient or a minor patient can make health care decisions regarding the patient's health care and can also assist in exercising the patient's rights related to protected health information.

Where can I find a list of the various types of Personal Representatives and their specific authority?

Refer to: <http://hipaa.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/5038-PR.pdf> for a list of definitions and authority granted to each of the various Personal representatives regulated by HIPAA and Connecticut State law.