

AMA Code of Medical Ethics

3.3.2 Confidentiality & Electronic Medical Records

Information gathered and recorded in association with the care of a patient is confidential, regardless of the form in which it is collected or stored.

Physicians who collect or store patient information electronically, whether on stand-alone systems in their own practice or through contracts with service providers, must:

- (a) Choose a system that conforms to acceptable industry practices and standards with respect to:
 - (i) restriction of data entry and access to authorized personnel;
 - (ii) capacity to routinely monitor/audit access to records;
 - (iii) measures to ensure data security and integrity;
 - (iv) policies and practices to address record retrieval, data sharing, third-party access and release of information, and disposition of records (when outdated or on termination of the service relationship) in keeping with ethics guidance.
- (b) Describe how the confidentiality and integrity of information is protected if the patient requests.
- (c) Release patient information only in keeping with ethics guidance for confidentiality and privacy.

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