

Section 5- B

Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The HIPAA Privacy Rule provides federal protections for personal health information held by covered entities and gives patients an array of rights with respect to that information. At the same time, the Privacy Rule is balanced so that it permits the disclosure of personal health information needed for patient care and other important purposes.¹

Providers involved with HIV care need to be constant in their protection of the confidentiality of those individuals receiving services. Accordingly, HIPAA has put into place rules and regulations with civil and criminal penalties to ensure confidentiality and the rights of individuals are protected. While HIPAA does not separately address HIV/AIDS patient information, individuals are still protected under the general guidelines regarding release of any health information including HIV status.²

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/security/laws-regulations/>

Source 1: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Source2 : AIDS Survival Project, *Survival News*.