

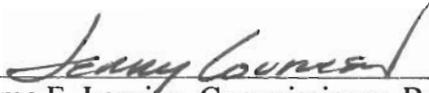
**DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, TO AVERT A SERIOUS THREAT
TO HEALTH OR SAFETY PROCEDURE**

1. Any member of the BHHF workforce (worker) who becomes aware of a situation in which a patient appears to pose an imminent and serious threat to another person or to the public should report the situation immediately. The report should be to a physician involved in the patient's care if possible. If not possible, the situation must be reported immediately to the senior administrator at the worker's location.
2. The physician or administrator is authorized to disclose as much protected health information as is necessary to prevent or lessen the threat, acting in good faith. The disclosure must be necessary to prevent or lessen the threatened harm, and must be made to someone who is reasonably in a position to prevent or lessen the harm. This includes informing the person who is the target of the threat.
3. Disclosures made under this policy must be recorded for inclusion in any accounting of disclosures. See ACCOUNTING OF DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION. The person making the disclosure must document it by recording the date, time, patient, summary of the PHI disclosed, identity of the person to whom it was disclosed, reason, and the identity of the worker making the disclosure.
4. In an extreme situation, a worker may make such a disclosure without other approval. However, the worker must report the disclosure to the senior administrator at that location as soon as possible, and the disclosure must be documented by recording the following:
 - 4.1. Date,
 - 4.2. Time,
 - 4.3. Patient,
 - 4.4. Summary of the PHI disclosed,
 - 4.5. Identity of the person to whom it was disclosed,
 - 4.6. Reason (including the reason approval could not be obtained), and
 - 4.7. The identity of the worker making the disclosure.

REFERENCE: 45 CFR §§ 164.512(j)(1)(i) and (4)

See also: ACCOUNTING OF DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Effective Date: 4/14/03
Dates Revised:



Jerome E. Lovrien, Commissioner, Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities