

HIPAA AND PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTING

As described in sections 106.203 and 164.512 of the HIPAA regulations, the restrictions on the release of personal health information (such as name, address, telephone number and past, present or future physical or mental health condition of an individual) are superseded by the duty to report communicable diseases to public health authorities. Others that are **EXEMPTED** include child abuse, and birth and death information.

In addition, Section 381.0031 (5) of the Florida Statutes states, "The department may obtain and inspect copies of medical records, records of laboratory tests, and other medical-related information for reported cases of disease of public health significance." Medical providers who allow the department to obtain this information cannot be held liable for the records disclosure. Section 381.0031 (1,2) states that any practitioner licensed in Florida to practice medicine, who diagnoses or suspects the existence of a disease of public health significance, should report findings immediately to the Department of Health. Medical providers who allow the department to obtain this information cannot be held liable for the records disclosure.

RULE 641)-3: SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING

This rule has been revised to incorporate new changes that have been adopted by the Florida Administrative Code and the Florida Legislature. Listed below are sections **64D-3.030, 64D-3.032, and 64D-3.041**. These sections pertain to the notification of disease by medical providers and medical facilities, along with Epidemiological Investigation Information. **64D-3.042 STD Testing Related to Pregnancy** has also been included for your reference.