



HIPAA Compliance Statement

June 10, 2004

Dear Health Care Provider:

Under Washington State law, the Yakima County Health District is required to collect and health care providers are required to report certain personally identifiable health information (PHI) for such things as infectious disease (RCW 70.05), sexually transmitted disease (RCW 70.24), and tuberculosis (RCW 70.28).

The HIPAA Privacy Rule (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164) guarantees certain privacy rights to people. However, the Rule permits you to share PHI for specific public health purposes without obtaining written authorization from the individual under two situations. First, to the extent a law requires the production of the information (See 45 CFR 164.512(a)). Second, for public health activities and purposes authorized by law (See 45 CFR 164.512(b)). Examples of this include reporting disease and injury, conducting public health investigations and interventions, reporting child abuse and neglect, and reporting exposure to communicable diseases. Thus, the HIPAA Privacy Rule does not affect your continued obligation to report PHI to our department. A more detailed report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/m2e411a1.htm>

I appreciate your continued cooperation in reporting PHI to us as required by state law so we can continue our work to make our community safer and healthier. If you have any questions about this, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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