

**DOES "HIPAA" (HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1996) ADEQUATELY PROTECT  
MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL PATIENT DATA  
IN THE UNITED STATES?**

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With the enactment of the federal law known as "HIPAA" (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) in the United States, considerable changes have occurred in ensuring confidentiality of medical and hospital records, as well as patient data.

With the conversion of medical records to electronic means, ensuring such confidentiality becomes even more problematic. Can those in health care learn from other countries which have faced similar concerns?

This presentation will focus on HIPAA's expansive effect on confidentiality as well as relating concerns of that effect with similar ones faced by the medical legal communities in other countries.