

## **DISCLOSURES TO PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES UNDER THE HIPAA PRIVACY POLICY**

Covered entities may disclose protected health information (PHI), without individual authorization, to a public health authority legally authorized to collect or receive the information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability 45 CFR 164.512(b). Further, the Privacy Rule permits covered entities to make disclosures for public health purposes.

Without individual authorization, a covered entity may disclose PHI to a public health authority (or an entity working under a grant of authority) that is legally authorized to collect or receive the information for the purposes of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability including, but not limited to:

- Reporting of disease, injury, and vital events (e.g., birth or death)
- Conducting public health surveillance, investigations, and interventions

PHI may also be disclosed without individual authority to:

- Report child abuse or neglect to a public health or other government authority legally authorized to receive such reports
- A person subject to jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concerning the quality, safety, or effectiveness of an FDA-related product or activity for which that person has responsibility
- A person who may have been exposed to a communicable disease or may be at risk for contracting or spreading a disease or condition, when legally authorized to notify the person as necessary to conduct a public health intervention or investigation
- An individual's employer, under certain circumstances and conditions, as needed for the employer to meet the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Mine Safety, and Health Administration or similar state law.