



## Resources

### ALL IN: Using Electronic Health Data for Community Health Webinar Series

#### HIPAA and public health activities

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, hosts a comprehensive website regarding the HIPAA Privacy Rule that includes many useful guidance documents, tools and training materials regarding HIPAA privacy and security regulations. The website is at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy>.
- Materials focused on public health can be found here:  
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/special/publichealth/index.html>.
  - See especially, “HIPAA Privacy Rule and Public Health, Guidance from CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services” at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/m2e411a1.htm>.
  - See also, FAQs regarding Public Health Uses and Disclosures at <http://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/faq/public-health-uses-and-disclosures>.

#### Access to electronic health records for public health investigation:

- See Exeter Hospital, Inc. v Dr. Sharon Alroy-Preis, et al, litigation concerning a state health department’s access to the hospital’s electronic medical records system to investigate a hepatitis C outbreak, Court opinion available at <https://130e178e8f8ba617604b-8aedd782b7d22cfe0d1146da69a52436.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/ehr-access-required-in-hepatitis-case-eresource-1-a-5267.pdf>.

#### Research resources and tools:

- The CDC’s “Distinguishing Public Health Research and Public Health Nonresearch” at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/integrity/docs/cdc-policy-distinguishing-public-health-research-nonresearch.pdf>.

## Research resources and tools, continued:

- The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists report “Public Health Practice vs. Research” <http://www.cste2.org/webpdfs/CSTEPHResRptHodgeFinal.5.24.04.pdf>.
- Quality improvement vs. research, Office for Human Research Protections website FAQs, go to <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/faq/index.html>, select topic “quality improvement activities” in dropdown box.
- When addressing the issue of "what is research," OHRP has frequently referenced the Belmont Report which speaks to 'generalizable knowledge'. The Belmont Report states, "the term 'research' designates an activity designed to test an hypothesis, permit conclusions to be drawn, and thereby to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge (expressed, for example, in theories, principles, and statements of relationships)." The Belmont Report is available on OHRP’s website at <https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/belmont-report/index.html#xbound>.
- Office for Human Research Protections website <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp>. Guidance on Research Using Coded Private Information or Specimens (2008) available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/guidance/research-involving-coded-private-information>.
- Gliklich R, Dreyer N, Leavy M, eds. Registries for Evaluating Patient Outcomes: A User's Guide. Third edition. Two volumes. (Prepared by the Outcome DEcIDE Center [Outcome Sciences, Inc., a Quintiles company] under Contract No. 290 2005 00351 TO7.) AHRQ Publication No. 13(14)-EHC111. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. April 2014. Table of contents at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK208616>. Especially see, Section II - Legal and Ethical Considerations for Registries and Section IV - Technical, Legal, and Analytic Considerations for Combining Registry Data With Other Data Sources.

### SUPPORTERS



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This resource list was compiled by Denise Chrysler, JD, Director, with the Network for Public Health Law – Mid-States Region at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and by its contractor, Trust Matters, LLC. The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health. The legal information and assistance provided in this document does not constitute legal advice or legal representation. For legal advice, please consult specific legal counsel.