

Addiction and Recovery Solutions

Patients Rights: Confidentiality and Consent

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As a patient getting treatment for a substance use disorder, your personal and medical information is protected under HIPAA law. This law states that your doctor or any employee with A&R Solutions is not allowed to tell anyone the reason that you are being treated, without your permission. Doctors or any employee of A&R Solutions are not even allowed to tell anyone whether or not you are a patient.

Patient Consent

With your approval or request your doctor or employee of A&R Solutions may let others know about your treatment. No information will be released without a signed consent form, which will include the name of your doctor or treatment provider, the person/group to whom your information is going, the purpose of the disclosure, how much information may be communicated, and the date. Even if you sign a consent form, you have the right to change your mind at any time. If you do change your mind, your doctor or employee of A&R Solutions will not share your information with others.

Impact on Treatment

The confidentiality law is strict, but will not keep you from getting good treatment. Exceptions were written into the law to make sure that patients still get excellent care. For instance, information can be shared among treatment staff in order to provide you with better care. Also, the law takes into account unexpected things that might happen. For instance, if there is a medical emergency and they need to know, the medical personnel treating you can be told that you are receiving maintenance treatment for a substance use disorder.

Last Word

Remember, the confidentiality law was set up to protect your rights. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about confidentiality or consent.