

Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
Student Handbook 2021-2022
Protected Patient Health Information

All students are required to observe rules regarding patient privacy and protected health information (PHI). The following statement is published by the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**:

The *Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information* (“Privacy Rule”) establishes, for the first time, a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) issued the Privacy Rule to implement the requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”).¹ The Privacy Rule standards address the use and disclosure of individuals’ health information—called “protected health information” by organizations subject to the Privacy Rule — called “covered entities,” as well as standards for individuals' privacy rights to understand and control how their health information is used. Within HHS, the Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) has responsibility for implementing and enforcing the Privacy Rule with respect to voluntary compliance activities and civil money penalties.

Students are reminded to observe all HIPAA rules with a focus on maintaining privacy of Protected Health Information (PHI). While informal case discussions enhance experiential learning, patients must not be identified outside of direct management planning with participating providers. No protected health information should ever be posted to social media nor should any protected health information be photographed, videoed, etc. and saved on a cellular or storage device. Students should review HIPAA training provided during orientation or refer to the federal regulations at:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

Any student found to be in violation of HIPAA rules will be subject to disciplinary action including permanent withdrawal from the degree program.