

Title 4
HEALTH CARE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

UPDATED: November 20, 2013

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4.04 GENERAL PROVISIONS

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- 4.04.010 Purpose and intent.

4.04.010 Purpose and intent.

A. It is the express purpose of this title to preserve, promote, improve, and protect the public health of the people of the county within the jurisdiction of the board of health by requiring health care providers and facilities to disclose health care information maintained on their patients at the request of the department of public health when it is needed to conduct surveillance or investigation of a disease or condition deemed potentially threatening to the community health.

B. It is the specific intent of this title to place the obligation of complying with its requirements upon any health care provider and/or health care facility whose health care practice is located within the jurisdiction of the King County board of health. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08 DEFINITIONS

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- 4.08.010 Director.
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4.08.010 Director. "Director" means the director of the Seattle-King County department of public health. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.020 Health care. "Health care" means any care, service, or procedure provided by a health care provider:

- A. To diagnose, treat, or maintain a patient's physical or mental condition; or
- B. That affects the structure or any function of the human body. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.030 Health care facility. "Health care facility" means a hospital, clinic, nursing home, laboratory, diagnostic imaging facility, office, or similar place where a health care provider provides health care to patients. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.040 Health care information. "Health care information" means any information, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, that identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient and directly relates to the patient's health care. The term includes any record of disclosures of health care information. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.050 Health care provider. "Health care provider" means a person who is licensed, certified, registered, or otherwise authorized by the law of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.060 Infant death. "Infant death" means any death of a liveborn child which occurs no later than twelve months after the child's birth. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.070 Maintain. "Maintain," as related to health care information, means to hold, possess, preserve, retain, store, or control that information. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.08.080 Patient. "Patient" means an individual who receives or has received health care. The term includes a deceased individual who has received health care. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.12 GENERAL

Sections:

- 4.12.010 Disclosable records.
- 4.12.020 Security requirements.
- 4.12.030 Retention of disclosed records.

4.12.010 Disclosable records.

A. Upon receipt of a written request from the director or his/her designee, a health care provider and/or a health care facility shall disclose any health care information maintained on a patient which relates to or is identified with the following public health problem: infant death.

B. Disclosure of said health care information shall comply with the requirements set forth in Section 204 (2) (a) of Substitute House Bill 1828 of the 52nd Legislature of the State of Washington.

C. Health care providers and health care facilities shall provide access to the health care information requested by the director or his/her designee as promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than fifteen working days after receipt of the request. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.12.020 Security requirements.

A. All health care information disclosed to the Director or his/her designee shall be maintained under conditions of strict confidentiality.

B. All health care information regarding infant death that is obtained by the director or his/her designee pursuant to Title 4 of these regulations shall be assigned code numbers or identifiers in place of patient names. Patient identifier information shall be stored in a secure location in locked file cabinets. Computerized patient identifier information shall be password-protected. The director or his/her designee shall determine who shall have access to the infant death health care information and patient identifiers. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).

4.12.030 Retention of disclosed records. All health care information records obtained by the director or his/her designee pursuant to Title 4 of these regulations shall be maintained therein for a period not less than two years. (R&R 72 §1(part), 9-17-91).