



Dear Patients and Families,

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) became effective in 2003. This law outlines how your medical information can be used and disclosed with or without your authorization.

Under this law, San Benito Health Care District patients will be allowed access to their medical information or protected health information (PHI) in a different way. The new law also allows patients to report a concern or file a complaint by calling our hotline number 1-888-826-8433 or contacting the Department of Health and Human Services at 1-916-445-4171 or their web site at [www.chhs.ca.gov](http://www.chhs.ca.gov).

The new HIPAA law requires public notification of these changes. To review the full document, "Notice of Privacy Practices", which outlines in detail the District's policy, you may pick up a copy at the hospital's reception desk or visit the District's web site at [www.hazelhawkins.com](http://www.hazelhawkins.com). The following five (5) changes directly affect our patients. The patient has the right:

- To be provided a copy of the districts "Notice of Privacy Practices"
- To access their health information
- To request an amendment to their health information
- To request restrictions on uses or disclosures of their health information
- To an accounting or listing of disclosures involving their health information

To comply with the new HIPAA requirements, the workforce of the San Benito Health Care District is changing the manner in which business is conducted. Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our patients is our primary concern.

Sincerely,

Deb Dea, RHIA Privacy Officer, San Benito Health Care District