

What are a patient's rights under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and who must follow HIPAA?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules, and the Patient Safety Act and Rule. You can find more information about patient rights under HIPAA and who is obligated to follow HIPAA here:

[Your Rights Under HIPAA | HHS.gov](#)

You may also want to share with patients the HIPAA FAQs for Individuals:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-individuals/index.html>

Are third-party apps covered by HIPAA?

Most third-party apps will not be covered by HIPAA. Most third-party apps will instead fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the protections provided by the FTC Act. The FTC Act, among other things, protects against deceptive acts (e.g., if an app shares personal data without permission, despite having a privacy policy that says it will not do so). The FTC provides information about mobile app privacy and security for consumers here:

[How To Protect Your Privacy on Apps | Consumer Advice \(ftc.gov\)](#)