
HIPAA Privacy – PHI of Deceased Patients

AD.HP50

POLICY:

Lifesong Hospice and Palliative Care protects the health information of deceased hospice patients in the same manner and to the same extent as it did prior to the patient’s death.

PROCEDURE:

1. Protection of the privacy of a deceased patient’s protected health information is provided for fifty (50) years after the patient’s death.
2. The hospice may use or disclose the PHI about individuals who have been deceased for more than 50 years for any purpose.
3. A personal representative of the deceased person (someone with legal authority to act on behalf of the deceased person or his/her estate) may exercise the deceased person’s rights with respect to protected health information.
4. The identity of the personal representative and his/her authority to act on behalf of the deceased individual is verified according to standard hospice procedures.
5. Hospice may disclose information about a decedent to family members or others involved in the patient’s care unless such disclosures would be inconsistent with the prior expressed preferences of the patient.

Created:	Reviewed:	Revised:	Effective:
05/2018	11/2018		4/2019