HIPAA Privacy Rule and Violations

HIPAA is the acronym for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that was passed by Congress in 1996. The HIPAA Privacy Rule was established to create national standards and regulations for health care providers and organizations, as well as their business associates, to require, develop and follow procedures that ensure the confidentiality and security of protected health information (PHI) when it is transferred, received, handled, or shared. This applies to all forms of PHI, including paper, oral, and electronic, etc.

For the purposes of AACVPR Program Certification, the HIPAA Privacy Rule applies to this process and will be strictly enforced. The pages of the application that require “uploading” of documentation can lead to HIPAA violations if you are not careful. Before uploading your documents, please be sure to mark out or cover up any of the following protected health information (PHI). Failure to follow the HIPAA Privacy Rule will result in an automatic denial of the page.

Most Common Protected Health Information (PHI)

- Name
- Date of birth
- Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers
- Electronic email addresses
- Social Security number
- Medical record number
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate and license numbers
- Vehicle identifiers, serial numbers including license plate numbers
- Medical device identifiers including serial numbers
- Internet universal resource locators (URLs)
- Internet protocol (IP) addresses
- Biometric identifiers including fingerprints and voice prints
- Full face photographic images
- Any other unique identifying number, characteristics or code
- All geographic subdivisions smaller than a state, including county, city, street address, precinct, zip code