



BON SECOURS CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM

A member of the
Westchester Medical Center Health Network

Corporate Compliance TIP #22

Release of Protected Health Information (PHI) to Law Enforcement

A Law Enforcement Officer **MUST HAVE** one of the following when requesting a patient's PHI:

- Valid patient authorization;
- Subpoena;
- Search Warrant;
- Or other court authorization.

You are **NOT** required to produce the patient's PHI. Any time a Law Enforcement Officer asks for PHI, employees should refer them to the Health Information Management Department. The Legal Department should be contacted if the Law Enforcement Officer has a search warrant or subpoena.

For assistance during business hours, use the chain of command. During all other times, contact the Administrator-on-call, who will coordinate with the Legal Department.

All communication with Law Enforcement officials should be facilitated through Administration.

Please refer to Charity-Wide Policy # CP-11: "Release of Information and Contacts with Government Officers and Agencies" for rules Hospital employees should follow to ensure appropriate cooperation and assure patient rights.

**Questions? – Contact the Compliance Office
(845) 368-5137**