

## Data Security for The Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering

The data security policies for the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering (RCHE) at Purdue University are defined at university, RCHE and IT levels. Compliance to these policies is audited annually by several different people, all of whom are internally independent of RCHE personnel and the group managing the server housing the data. A HIPAA officer performs RCHE's security rule assessments, Purdue's HIPAA Privacy Officer audits the center, and a person in Purdue's Chief Information Security Officer's organization performs the center's IT risk assessments.

At the university level, Purdue supports the goals of HIPAA and documents its commitment to comply with these laws in its "Compliance with HIPAA Privacy Regulations" policy provided at <http://www.purdue.edu/policies/records/viii1.html>. It endeavors to preserve the privacy, security, and confidentiality of PHI and medical records maintained by its various schools and departments at all of its campuses. Finally, it strives to fulfill this responsibility in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations.

Purdue provides that its Covered Components may not use or disclose PHI unless permitted by the regulations and procedures designed to protect this information, regardless of its format: electronic, paper or verbal. Communications regarding this information is also limited by the policy and is set forth to protect the privacy of an individual's health record while allowing for the use of this information as necessary and appropriate for research.

RCHE, which is one of Purdue's Covered Components, has its HIPAA policy summarized at [http://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark/rche/assets/pdfs/RCHE\\_HIPAA\\_2012.pdf](http://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark/rche/assets/pdfs/RCHE_HIPAA_2012.pdf). The policy provides guidelines for data access and handling, security, communications, disposal, responsibilities and administration. In it, assurance is given that all staff, faculty and researchers involved with RCHE's identifiable health records are properly informed about access to and use of this information on an annual basis.

Pertaining to RCHE's IT infrastructure, the server on which RCHE's PHI and other sensitive data is stored and processed has associated with it a comprehensive set of policies that match the policy sections defined by HIPAA. The HIPAA security policies for this server are found at <http://www.purdue.edu/discoverypark/rche/assets/pdfs/dashpolicies.pdf>. The group managing this server continuously addresses risks as they are either discovered during annual audits or during the regular threat detection processes defined in the server policies.