

Requests for Medical Records: What Should You Know?

Per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), patients are entitled to their complete health records. This includes diagnoses, medications, imaging, and notes from any healthcare provider who treated them.

Patients should be aware of the following factors when requesting access to medical records.

→ **You Won't Receive All Your Information**

When a patient, family member, or their legal representative requests electronic health records (EHRs) they will typically receive only a percentage of the documentation. Some legal restrictions may prevent them from seeing every piece of information on their chart.

→ **You Won't Receive Records from Referral Doctors**

The contents of an EHR may exclude records from referral doctors. Referral doctors will not release patient information without a signature authorizing the release. Additionally, referral doctors do not send records they received from the referring doctor.

→ **A Cost is Associated with the Request**

In 2013, a final regulation on HIPAA known as the Omnibus Rule went into effect. The rule allows hospitals, clinics, and healthcare professionals to charge a fee for labor costs for copying protected health information (PHI) in paper or electronic form.

If you have questions about the process and fees associated with requesting medical records, an experienced medical malpractice attorney at Miller & Wagner can help you navigate the system.



Talk To An Expert

For more information about filing a medical negligence complaint, contact an experienced medical malpractice attorney at [Miller & Wagner today.](http://www.miller-wagner.com)



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