



## **Public Health Confidential Medical Information**

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Law enacted in the 2007-2008 Legislative Session

AB 211 (Jones) Chapter 602 Public Health requires every provider of health care to implement appropriate specified safeguards to protect the privacy of patient medical information. This law requires every provider of health care to reasonably safeguard confidential medical information from unauthorized or unlawful access, use, or disclosure. The law establishes within the California Health and Human Services Agency the office of Health Information Integrity to assess and impose administrative fines for a violation of these provisions. The office has the authority to impose administrative fines for the unauthorized use of medical information. Any licensed health care professional, who knowing and willfully obtains, discloses, or violates the use of medical information would be fined as follows:

- First violation--\$5000 per violation
- Second violation--\$25,000 per violation
- Third violation--\$250,000 per violation

This new law will permit the director to send a recommendation for further investigation, or discipline for a potential violation, to the licensee's licensing authority.

The law requires every provider of health care to establish and implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the privacy of a patient's medical record.