

Yale UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

17 Hillhouse Avenue
P.O. Box 208237
New Haven, CT 06520-8237

March 2009

Dear YUHS Patient:

As many of you know, a discussion about how best to protect medical privacy has been underway since the passage by Congress in 1996 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The six-year public debate about how to implement HIPAA's provisions allowed time for health care entities, including Yale Health Plan, to develop privacy policies which reflect the needs of their particular populations within HIPAA guidelines.

HIPAA requires the adoption by medical facilities of security and privacy standards to protect personal health information. The rule limits the use and release of individually identifiable health information; gives patients the right to access their medical records; restricts most disclosures of health information to the minimum needed for the intended purpose; and establishes safeguards regarding disclosure of records for certain public responsibilities, such as public health and law enforcement.

As part of compliance with HIPAA, we are providing this notice describing how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can obtain this information. Please review it carefully and sign and return the acknowledgement statement by July 20, 2009 (parents or guardians sign for minor children). If you need more information, call the Member Services Department at 203.432.0246. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Paul Genecin, M.D.
Director