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POLICIES & PROCEDURES	Authorized By: W. David Patton		
Section: Privacy Policies	Subject: Communication of Protected Health Information		

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Policy:

PHI can be communicated through various mediums. To comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule section 164.530 (c)(I) regarding safeguards, and the HIPAA Security Rule section 164.306(a) requiring the safeguarding of the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic PHI (ePHI) an Department creates, receives, maintains, or transmits, the Department of Health (Department) has in place appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect PHI. It is the policy of the Department to ensure that PHI is protected from misuse, loss, tampering, or use by unauthorized persons. This policy addresses the safeguarding of PHI received, created, used, maintained, and/or transmitted via the communication mediums listed using minimum necessary requirements for disclosures of PHI to personnel, patients and their personal representatives, other covered entities, public health officials, business associates, etc. set forth by federal, state and local laws. Verification of identity is attained in accordance with the Identity Verification Policy prior to release of PHI. Accounting of disclosures of PHI is maintained in compliance with Policy. Transmission of ePHI over the Department's own network is managed with internal controls such as unique user ID and Password authentication.