



October 20, 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services and is a public health authority as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information; Final Rule (Privacy Rule)[45 CFR § 164.501]. Pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule, covered entities may disclose protected health information to public health authorities " . . . authorized by law to collect or receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including, but not limited to, the reporting of disease, injury, vital events such as birth or death, and the conduct of public health surveillance, public health investigations, and public health interventions" The definition of public health authority includes " . . . an individual or entity acting under a grant of authority from or contract with such public agency . . ." [45 CFR § 164.501]. The Section of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine (Emory) is acting under a cooperative agreement with the CDC to carry out the CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Program. The purpose of the CARES Program is to help local communities identify and track cases of cardiac arrest and identify opportunities for improvement in the treatment of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Through this grant of authority, Emory may function as a public health authority under the Privacy Rule for purposes of this project.

CARES is a public health activity as described by 45 CFR § 164.512(b) referenced previously and is authorized by sections 301(a) and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act. The information being requested represents the minimum necessary to carry out the public health purposes of this project pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.514(d) of the Privacy Rule. The Privacy Rule provides that covered entities " . . . may rely, if such reliance is reasonable under the circumstances, on a requested disclosure as the minimum necessary for the stated purposes when making disclosures to public officials that are permitted under 45 CFR § 164.512, if the public official represents that the information requested is the minimum necessary for the stated purposes(s)."

The Principal Investigator for the CARES Program is Dr. Bryan McNally at the Emory University School of Medicine. If you have questions or concerns please contact Dr Bryan McNally at bmcnall@emory.edu or call 404-712-2772.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paula W. Yoon".

Paula W. Yoon, ScD, MPH
Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention