



October 20, 2008

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Dear Dr McNally:

This letter serves as verification of a grant of authority from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for you to conduct the public health activities described here, acting as a public health authority pursuant to the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information promulgated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) [45 CFR Parts 160 and 164]. Under this rule, covered entities may disclose, without individual authorization, 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 a public health authority includes " . . . an individual or entity acting under a grant of authority from or contract with such public agency"

The Section of Pre-hospital and Disaster Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine is acting under a cooperative agreement with the CDC to conduct the CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Program which is authorized by sections 301(a) and 317(k)(2) of the Public Health Service Act. 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. The CDC grants this authority to Emory University School of Medicine for purposes of this project. Further, the CDC considers this to be a quality improvement intervention and public health surveillance activity, for which disclosure of protected health information by covered entities is authorized by 45 CFR § 164.512(b) of the Privacy Rule.

Sincerely,

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