



Your Data: Confidential and Protected



The confidentiality and privacy of patient records is our highest concern. The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is committed to safeguarding information entrusted to us.



Protecting Information

Controlled Access

Direct personal identifiers (e.g., name, address, phone number, SSN, etc.) will be removed from submitted patient files and stored in a separate, secure location. Access will be controlled and restricted to designated staff on a need to know basis.

Secure Transmission

Data are transmitted to NCHS and its contractors by secure data transmission. No data are transmitted unless encrypted and, once received, are housed on a server with restricted access.

Patient Privacy

The identity of specific hospitals or individual patients will not be released in any manner except to NCHS staff, contractors, and agents—only when required to complete assigned tasks and with necessary access controls. There will be no contact with patients.

Confidentiality Measures

- 1 NCHS and its agents are required by law to keep all data regarding patients and hospitals strictly confidential and to use these data only for research and statistical purposes as stated by Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act [42 United States Code 242m (d) and Section 513 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL-107-347)].
- 2 The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act permits hospitals such as yours to participate in studies of this nature without written patient authorization for public health purposes.
- 3 NCHS' Institutional Review Board has reviewed and approved all aspects of this study. Participating hospitals may rely on the approval of the NCHS Institutional Review Board to ensure all ethical considerations have been addressed for the National Hospital Care Survey data activities.
- 4 Results of the study will be published only in an aggregated manner and all data will be used only for research and statistical purposes.