

AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF PATIENT PROTECTED HEALTH  
INFORMATION

Maintaining patient information in a confidential manner is important to the College of Pharmacy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. As a student enrolled in the professional pharmacy program, it is imperative that you understand the significance of your role in maintaining the confidentiality of all patient information that you encounter. Furthermore, it is important that you recognize those standards, which impose this duty of confidentiality:

1: Ethical Standard

Maintaining the confidences of the patient is an essential tenet of the pharmacist-patient relationship. The 1994 Code of Ethics of the American Pharmaceutical Association reinforced this principle of confidentiality. The Code explicitly states: "With a caring attitude and a compassionate spirit, a pharmacist focuses on serving the patient in a private and confidential manner." Ethically, the pharmacist and pharmacy student must confidentially protect patient information.

2: Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy Confidentiality Regulations

The Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy has addressed the need for pharmacists to maintain "the nature of a patient's problems or ailments or any confidence entrusted to the pharmacist in their professional capacity ..." and that the information "will not be divulged except in response to legal requirements or in the best interest of the patron." (Oklahoma Administrative Code Title 535: 10-3-1.1 (6), Title 535: 25-7-4)

3: Federal Legislation

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191, HIPAA) identified the importance in maintaining patient confidentiality in light of the current climate of patient records and computerization of patient information. The privacy regulations resulting from this Act required that "covered entities" (which are the facilities that you as a student will enter off-campus) have contracts with their "business associates" (which includes educational groups such as the College of Pharmacy). These contracts assure that privacy compliance requirements will be maintained by all those affiliated with the business associate. The College of Pharmacy at Southwestern has entered into agreements assuring covered entities that confidentiality compliance requirements will be followed by all the "agents" (or students) of the College.

AGREEMENT

I understand that the information that I will be reviewing at an on- or off-campus facility (or facilities) will contain information of a confidential nature. By signing this document I hereby agree to maintain the strictest confidence of the information obtained and will not divulge such information to another in a manner which does breach or could breach the patient's right of confidentiality. I agree to abide by the APhA Code of Ethics, Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy regulations and HIPAA statutory and regulatory provisions relating to confidentiality of protected health information (PHI). Should it be determined that I have indeed breached a patient's right to have their protected health information maintained in a confidential manner, I understand that I may be withdrawn involuntarily from any course in which the breach occurred; I may also receive a penalty, including (but not limited to) an F, for the course, and/or dismissal from the College of Pharmacy program.

My signature on this agreement is valid for all courses taken from the date of my signature until my graduation from the College of Pharmacy program.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PRINTED NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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