



## 2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 453

October 18, 2013 – Introduced by Representatives SEVERSON, PASCH, BALLWEG, DANOU, JAGLER, KOLSTE, SANFELIPPO, STEINEKE, BERCEAU, BERNARD SCHABER, BERNIER, BEWLEY, BIES, BILLINGS, BROOKS, DOYLE, HEBL, KAUFERT, KESTELL, LEMAHIEU, OHNSTAD, A. OTT, RICHARDS, RIEMER, RINGHAND, SPIROS, STRACHOTA, WACHS and JORGENSEN, cosponsored by Senators VUKMIR, CARPENTER, SHILLING, HARS DORF, HARRIS, RISSER, LEHMAN, ERPENBACH, FARROW, OLSEN, HANSEN, MOULTON, LASSA and DARLING. Referred to Committee on Health.

1     **AN ACT to create** 146.816 of the statutes; **relating to:** uses and disclosures of  
2           protected health information.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, patient health care records are confidential but may be released upon written consent of the patient or a person authorized by the patient. Current law also requires health care providers to release patient health care records without the consent of the patient under certain circumstances. Mental health treatment records are also confidential, under current law, but may be released under certain circumstances.

The bill defines a covered entity as a health plan, health plan clearinghouse, or a health care provider who transmits any health information in electronic form in connection with a certain transaction, as described under federal regulations. Under this bill, a covered entity or a business associate of a covered entity that uses, discloses, or requests disclosure of protected health information in a mental health treatment record or patient health care record is exempt from certain confidentiality requirements if the use, disclosure, or request complies with certain federal regulations and is made for the purposes of treatment, payment, or health care operations, as those purposes are defined by federal regulation. Under the bill, a covered entity that is a mental health treatment facility must comply with the notice of privacy practices obligations under federal regulations. The bill also requires the Department of Health Services to make available, to all applicable health care facilities and on its Internet site, a comprehensive and accessible document written in commonly understood language that explains health information privacy rights.

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For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 146.816 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **146.816 Uses and disclosures of protected health information.** (1) In  
3 this section:

4           (a) “Business associate” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 160.103.

5           (b) “Covered entity” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 160.103.

6           (c) “Disclosure” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 160.103 and includes  
7 redisclosures and rereleases of information.

8           (d) “Health care operations” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 164.501.

9           (e) “Payment” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 164.501.

10          (f) “Protected health information” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 160.103.

11          (g) “Treatment” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 164.501.

12          (h) “Treatment facility” has the meaning given in s. 51.01 (19).

13          (i) “Use” has the meaning given in 45 CFR 160.103.

14          **(2)** Sections 51.30 (4) (a) and (e) and 146.82 and rules promulgated under s.  
15 51.30 (12) do not apply to a use, disclosure, or request for disclosure of protected  
16 health information by a covered entity or its business associate that meets all the  
17 following criteria:

18          (a) The covered entity or its business associate makes the use, disclosure, or  
19 request for disclosure in compliance with 45 CFR 164.500 to 164.534.

20          (b) The covered entity or its business associate makes the use, disclosure, or  
21 request for disclosure in any of the following circumstances:

