



Medweb and HIPAA Compliance

The Medweb RIS (Radiology Information System)/PACS (Picture Archiving and Communications System) and Telemedicine web platforms create a standards based, fault tolerant mesh of teleradiology/telemedicine web servers that can share workload among medical practitioners, specialty physicians, and their information systems.

Medweb RIS/PACS institutes a common architecture for sharing patient medical records between different facilities, and is therefore bound by all rules and regulations set forth by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") of 1996.

When using the Medweb RIS/PACS web server to access health information about an individual patient, federal and state laws require that appropriate steps are taken to protect against the unauthorized use and disclosure of Protected Health Information ("PHI"). The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") allows health information concerning individual patients to be disclosed to another health care provider for purposes relating to the medical treatment of the patient. Medweb takes every possible precaution to ensure strict adherence under HIPAA. Terms of such adherence are as follows:

Aspects of Compliance

1. **PASSWORD/USER NAME CONFIDENTIALITY.** Medweb will not divulge my password, user name, or any other information required to access the RIS/PACS web server to any other person, nor shall we permit any other person to use a username and password. It is understood that a username and password are the equivalent of legal signature, and it is agreed that Medweb will make best efforts to safeguard usernames and passwords so that they are not unintentionally divulged.
2. **USE FOR TREATMENT ONLY.** Username and passwords are created only to gain access to the diagnostic reports and images for the patients' physician.
3. **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.** Medweb's RIS/PACS web server contains confidential information that is protected under HIPAA, other federal laws, state laws, and the ethics rules of the medical profession.
4. **DUTY TO REPORT.** Medweb will immediately contact the physician and associated patient upon any of the following events:
 - a. Medweb learns that a patient's images or reports have been improperly accessed by a third party;
 - b. Medweb learns that a password and user name is or has been in the possession of any third-party;
 - c. Medweb learns of any other misuse of the Medweb RIS/PACS web portal.
5. **MONITORING.** Use of the RIS/PACS web portal will be monitored and upon discovery of improper use or disclosure of patient information, physician access to the PACS web server may be terminated.

Additional Requirements of HIPAA in 2012

In recognition of the unique data security requirements of HIPAA 2012, Medweb has added additional layers of encryption security at every node within our hosted environment. We are committed to providing data safety which is required under HIPAA. This includes encrypting traffic from your browser to each web-server, requests between the web servers and the database, during database back-ups, and in retrieving from data storage when necessary. At no point anywhere in the process of reading or writing updates to Medweb is the data ever available in an unencrypted format. This represents a significant upgrade from solo-location hosting environments which have typified management systems prior to HIPAA regulations, and represents the most secure infrastructure available.