

**HIPAA Privacy Policy #29
Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information
Without Patient Authorization
For As Otherwise Required by Law**

Effective Date: January 22, 2020	Refer to Privacy Rule Sections: 164.502; 164.508; 164.512; 164.528; 164.530
Authorized by: Equinox Board of Directors	Version #:

Policy: In addition to those uses and disclosures addressed elsewhere in Equinox, Inc.’s Policies, Equinox, Inc. may disclose a patient’s Protected Health Information as required by law without the patient’s written Authorization according to the Procedures listed below. However, when managing school immunizations, Equinox, Inc. is required to obtain either a written or oral agreement from the patient’s parent or guardian granting permission to disclose the information. *45 C.F.R. § 164.512; § 164.512(b)(vi).*

Procedures:

1. **Compliance with Law:** Equinox, Inc. may disclose a patient’s Protected Health Information to the extent required by law. *45 C.F.R. § 164.512(a).*
2. **Additional Requirements for Certain Uses and Disclosures:** This Policy is superseded by Equinox, Inc.’s other Policies that address the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information for specific purposes as required by law. For example, Equinox, Inc. must comply with the specific Policy No. 23 entitled “Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Without Patient Authorization for Suspected Abuse, Neglect or Domestic Violence;” Policy No. 21 entitled “Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Without Patient Authorization for Judicial and Administrative Proceedings;” and Policy No. 19 entitled “Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information Without Patient Authorization for Law Enforcement Purposes.” *45 C.F.R. §§ 164.512(b)(1)(ii), 164.512(e)(1), 164.512(f).*
3. **Minimum Necessary:** The Minimum Necessary Rule does not apply to information that Equinox, Inc. uses or discloses pursuant to this Policy. *See* Equinox, Inc.’s Policy No. 7 entitled “Minimum Necessary Uses, Disclosures and Requests of Protected Health Information.” *45 C.F.R. § 164.502(b)(2)(v).*
4. **Log of Disclosures:** Equinox, Inc. is required to log disclosures made pursuant to this Policy in the patient’s Log for Accounting of Disclosures (*See* Equinox, Inc.’s Policy No. 32 entitled “Accounting of Disclosures.”) *45 C.F.R. § 164.528(a); N.Y. Public Health Law § 18(6).*
5. **Special Protection for Highly Sensitive Protected Health Information:** In accordance with certain Federal and New York State laws, Equinox, Inc. must provide greater privacy protections to highly sensitive Protected Health Information, which includes information that relates to HIV, Mental Health, Psychotherapy Notes, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment, and Genetics. The Privacy Officer, and legal counsel when appropriate, should be consulted prior to the disclosure of such information. *See* Equinox, Inc.’s Policy No. 14 entitled “Uses and Disclosures of Highly Sensitive Protected Health Information.”