



HIPAA email consent

HIPAA stands for the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*. In 1996, HIPAA was passed by the U.S. government, in part, to establish privacy and security protections for health/medical information.

Many popular email services (ex. Hotmail®, Gmail®, Yahoo®) do not utilize encrypted email. When we send you an email, or you send us an email, the information sent may not be encrypted. This means a third party may have the ability to access and view the information since it is transmitted over the Internet. In addition, once the email is received by you, someone may be able to access your email account and read the contents within.

Email is a very popular and convenient way to communicate for a lot of people. So, in one of their latest modifications to the HIPAA act, the federal government provided guidance on email and HIPAA. The information is available in a PDF (page 5634) on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website:
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-01-25/pdf/2013-01073.pdf>

In summary, the guidelines advise that if a beneficiary has been made aware of the risks of unencrypted email, and that same beneficiary provides consent to receive health/medical information via email, then a health entity (provider) may send that beneficiary's personal health/medical information via unencrypted email.

OPTION 1 – ALLOW UNENCRYPTED EMAIL

I understand the risks of unencrypted email and do hereby give permission to Compass Speech Therapy, LLC to send the beneficiary's personal health/medical information via unencrypted email.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____
(parent or guardian if beneficiary is a minor)

Please print email address _____

Beneficiary Name and DOB _____

OPTION 2 – DO NOT ALLOW UNENCRYPTED EMAIL

I do not wish to receive personal health information via email.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____
(parent or guardian if patient is a minor)