



# DEERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEDICINE

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## HIPAA Privacy Guidelines

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act is in place to protect the privacy of the healthcare information regarding your student-athlete. The Athletic Trainers at Deerfield High School are licensed health care providers in the state of Illinois. As such, your physician can provide us with treatment and rehabilitation guidelines related to your child's condition with your permission. By getting a written note from your physician and passing it along to the Athletic Trainers, you will ensure that your child will receive proper care for his/her injury.

The following categories directly affect athletic trainers in regards to HIPAA:

1. *Consent Authorization* by the patient. Consent allows health care providers to communicate between themselves about a patient's care.
2. *Authorization to Release Information*. The patient must authorize health care providers to disclose personal health information to a third party specified by the patient. An authorization is more detailed and specific than a consent. It covers only the uses and disclosures of stipulated information. It has an expiration date and can state the purpose for which the information may be used or disclosed. Implications for injury reports- will need to have authorization for each injury episode instead of a "blanket" authorization that covers all injuries for an entire season. Communications/reports to coaches and administrators fall under this category.
3. *Minimum Necessary and Oral Communications*. This provision requires covered entities (health care providers, etc.) to make reasonable efforts to limit the use and disclosure of and request for protected health information to the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose. Applicable to ATCs in all settings, caution should be used when giving "sideline" injury reports to media, etc without prior authorization.
4. *Parents and Minors*. The current rule may have unintentionally limited a parent's access to his or her child's medical records. The modification clarifies that state law governs disclosures to parents. There are specific incidences that do not require disclosure to the parent – for further information about this, please contact one of the athletic trainers directly.