

Confidentiality

Explain Privacy Before Sensitive Sharing

Clinicians | 10 to 15 minutes

People may hesitate to speak because they do not know who can access information. Choose one real setting and verify its applicable requirements. This page helps plan the explanation before sensitive disclosure. It does not supply legal rules or authorize information sharing.

Verify the actual rules, write a plain-language explanation, and prepare a nonjudgmental way to check understanding.

Explain the specific setting

Describe who participates in care, how records are handled, and the relevant circumstances in which information may be shared. For a young person, verify consent authority and record-access arrangements rather than assuming all caregivers have the same rights.

Invite questions and correction

Try: Before you decide what to share, what questions do you have about privacy? Ask the person to explain their understanding in a comfortable format. Correct your explanation if unclear; do not turn this into a test or promise secrecy you cannot maintain.

1. What privacy practices and limits apply to this actual setting?**2. What plain-language explanation will I offer before sensitive disclosure?****3. What questions or misunderstandings should I invite?****4. What must I verify, document, or revisit as care changes?****Clinical use and adaptation**

Consult current law, professional standards, organizational policy, and qualified guidance. Avoid absolute guarantees, assumptions about minors' records, or blanket consent for sharing. Consider interpreters, portals, support people, and remote environments. Document the discussion actually held; urgent duties take precedence over completing the worksheet.

Original educational resource. Adapt with a clinician; not a validated assessment or complete treatment protocol.

Conceptual references: S17, S11, R18. Full sources are in the online preview and collection appendix.

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