I. 11.2.11 Uses and Disclosures for Specialized Government Functions

Chapter 11 - Patient Privacy	Original Effective Date: April 2003
Section: 11.2 Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information	Date Last Reviewed: September 2026
Responsible Entity: Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer	Date Last Revised: September 2026

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the conditions when protected health information may be disclosed without an individual's authorization for specialized government functions.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all Workforce Members—including faculty, staff, students, healthcare providers, contractors, and researchers—who have direct or indirect access to Protected Health Information (PHI). This includes all PHI maintained by UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA) and its controlled affiliates, such as clinics, hospitals, and research facilities.

IV. Policy

A. Workforce members may disclose PHI without authorization for specialized government functions including:

1. Military and veterans activities;
2. National security and intelligence activities;
3. Protective services for the President of the United States and others as authorized by law;
4. Medical suitability determinations;
5. A correctional institution or other law enforcement custodial situation; and,
6. Governmental programs providing and/or administering public health benefits.

B. Military and Veteran Activities

1. Workforce members may use or disclose PHI of Armed Forces personnel when an appropriate military command authority determines the use or disclosure is necessary to carry out the military mission, provided the military authority has published the following required information in the Federal Register:

a. Appropriate military command authorities; and,

b. The purposes for which the PHI may be used or disclosed.

2. Workforce members may use and disclose the PHI of individuals who are foreign military personnel to their appropriate foreign military authority for the same purposes for which uses, and disclosures are permitted for Armed Forces personnel under the notice published in the Federal Register pursuant to the same guidelines that apply to U.S. Armed Forces.

C. National Security and Intelligence Activities

PHI may be disclosed to authorized federal officials for the conduct of lawful intelligence, counterintelligence, and other national security activities authorized by law.

D. Protective Services

PHI may be disclosed to authorized federal officials for the provision of protective services to the President of the United States, foreign heads of state, or other persons as authorized by federal law, or for the conduct of investigations authorized by law.

E. Correctional Institutions and other Law Enforcement Custodial Situations

1. Workforce members may disclose to a correctional institution or a law enforcement or a law enforcement official having lawful custody of an inmate or individual, if the correctional institution or such law enforcement official represents that such PHI is necessary for:

a. The provision of health care to such individuals;

b. The health and safety of the individual or other inmates;

c. The health and safety of the officers or employees at the correctional institution;

d. The health and safety of the individuals and officers or other persons responsible for the transporting of inmates or their transfer from one institution, facility, or setting to another;

e. Law enforcement on the premises of the correctional institution; and,

f. The administration and maintenance of the safety, security and good order of the correctional institution.

2. Any component of UTHSA that is affiliated with a correctional institution may use PHI of individuals who are inmates for any purpose for which such PHI may be disclosed.

3. For the purposes of this provision, an individual is no longer an inmate when released on parole, probation, supervised release, or otherwise is no longer in lawful custody.

F. Government Programs Providing Public Benefits

Any UTHSA department administering a government program providing public benefits may disclose PHI relating to the program to another covered entity that is a government agency administering a government program providing public benefits if the programs serve the same or similar populations and the disclosure of PHI is

necessary to coordinate the covered functions of such programs or to improve administration and management relating to the covered functions of such programs.

V. Definitions

Terms used in this document have the meaning set forth in the Patient Privacy Policies Glossary *unless a different meaning is required by context.*

VI. Related References

For questions regarding this policy, contact the Privacy Program Director at 210-567-2014 or compliance@uthscsa.edu.

VII. Review and Approval History

The approving authority of this policy is the University Executive Committee.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Approved Date
04/2003	Policy Origination		
03/2013	Policy Review		
01/2023	Policy Review	ICPO	01/04/2023
09/2026	Policy Review, Discretionary Edit	ICPO	09/21/2026