

## Do You Know What Patient Confidentiality Is?

Do you ever have questions about your medical bills? Do you have questions about your family's medical bills or medical problems? Do you call your doctor's office for answers? Have you been told they can not answer your questions? Do you know how you can get the doctor's offices to talk to you? If you have answered yes or no to any of these questions, read on.

**WHY YOUR MEDICAL PROVIDER CAN NOT ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS:**

When you call your providers office which is a doctor's office, hospital, or lab - to name a few – about your bill - why can't they answer your questions?

(1) When you call a providers office you have to be speaking about your bill only.(2) You can not speak about your child's bill if they are eighteen years of age or older.(3) You can not speak about your aging mother or father's bill.This is all put into two words **PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY!**What you can do when you call your medical provider is ask how you can speak for your eighteen year old child, for your parents, for your aunt and the neighbors.

**WRITTEN PERMISSION:**Simply put you need the person you are inquiring about to give their permission. A letter from the person and signed by that -specific person - giving you and specify your name (first and last) permission to speak to you about their bill or medical problems.This letter can be hand carried, faxed or mailed to your medical provider's office. The next time you call you will be able to ask about this person's bill or medical issues.Remember everything you want to discuss with the medical providers office must be clearly stated in the letter. It should be neatly written or typed.Having a little knowledge about how a Medical Providers Office is run can help your life run easier and less stressful.Thank you for reading my article. Please feel free to read any of my numerous articles on many subjects.Copyright Linda E. Meckler 2007

## About the Author

Publishes material relevant to the practice, education, and investigation of emergency medicine, and reaches a wide audience of emergency.

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