

Under the "preparatory to research" provision of the HIPAA Privacy Rule, covered entities may use and disclose PHI to researchers to aid in study recruitment. They may allow a researcher to identify, but not contact, potential study participants. More information is available here:

https://privacyruleandresearch.nih.gov/clin_research.asp

Researchers may want to obtain "preparatory to research" information about availability of patient populations in North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. For example, searches of the patient database can be based on ICD-9/ICD-10 codes, age, zip codes, etc.

For preparatory to research activities, please contact the *Automated Data Processing Applications Coordinator* (ADPACS) group at:

MASDQSADPACS@med.va.gov