

Confidentiality and Privacy Laws in

Confidentiality and Privacy Laws in Healthcare

1. Introduction

- Confidentiality is the duty to protect patient information from unauthorised disclosure.
- Privacy laws set the legal framework for handling health data.

2. Why Confidentiality Matters

- It builds trust, encouraging patients to share sensitive information.
- It protects patients from stigma, discrimination, and harm.

3. Legal Protections

- Laws and professional codes require secure handling of records.
- Data protection regulations govern collection, storage, and sharing of information.

4. Permitted Disclosures

- Information may be shared with patient consent or for direct care.
- Disclosure without consent may be lawful for public health, court orders, or to prevent serious harm.

5. Maintaining Privacy

- Limit access to those who need the information.
- Use secure systems and avoid discussing patients in public areas.

6. Summary

- Confidentiality is both an ethical duty and a legal requirement.
- Lawful disclosure is limited to defined, justified circumstances.