

# Patient Rights Policy

## Introduction

**STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** has adopted this Patient Rights Policy in order to recognize the requirement to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA"), as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health ("HITECH") Act of 2009 (Title XIII of division A and Title IV of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act "ARRA") and the HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule (Effective Date: March 26, 2013).

**STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** hereby acknowledges our duty and responsibility to protect the privacy and security of Individually Identifiable Health Information ("IIHI") generally, and Protected Health Information ("PHI") as defined in the HIPAA Regulations, under the regulations implementing HIPAA, other federal and state laws protecting the confidentiality of personal information, and under principles of general and professional ethics. We also acknowledge our duty and responsibility to support and facilitate the timely and unimpeded flow of health information for lawful and appropriate purposes.

## Scope of Policy

This policy governs the provision and management of Patient Rights for **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** All personnel of **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** must comply with this policy. Demonstrated competence in the requirements of this policy is an important part of the responsibilities of every member of the workforce.

Officers, agents, employees, Business Associates, contractors, affected vendors, temporary workers, and volunteers must read, understand, and comply with this policy in full and at all times.

## Assumptions

- ❑ **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** hereby recognizes its status as a Business Associate under the definitions contained in the HIPAA Regulations.
- ❑ **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** must comply with HIPAA and the HIPAA implementing regulations, in accordance with the requirements pertaining to the rights of patients at § 164.520, to § 164.528, as amended by the HITECH Act of 2009 (ARRA Title XIII), and the HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule (Effective Date: March 26, 2013).
- ❑ Patient information related to patient rights includes only that information contained in each patient's Designated Record Set ("DRS"), which is defined in the HIPAA regulations at § 164.501 as:
  - A group of records maintained by or for a covered entity that is:
    - The medical records and billing records about individuals maintained by or for a covered health care provider;

- The enrollment, payment, claims adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for a health plan; or
- Used, in whole or in part, by or for the covered entity to make decisions about individuals.
- The term "record" means any item, collection, or grouping of information that includes protected health information and is maintained, collected, used, or disseminated by or for a covered entity.
- The provision of patient rights in a timely and positive manner can enhance the quality of care we provide to patients, by providing certain rights and controls to patients over their individually identifiable health information.

### **Policy Statement**

- It is the Policy of **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** that it is covered entity's responsibility to provide all the patient rights to patients that are called for in the HIPAA regulations, whereas **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.** is not a covered entity who owns the patient record.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

All managers and supervisors are responsible for enforcing this policy. Employees who violate this policy are subject to discipline up to and including termination in accordance with **STRATEQ HEALTH, INC.**'s Sanction Policy.