

Are You in Compliance?

Table A-7. Minimum Medical Record Retention Periods for Records Held by Medical Doctors and Hospitals (USA)

Outlined below are data retention requirements for the Largest U.S. States from HealthIT.Gov Table A-7: Minimum Medical Record Retention Periods

California



Medical Doctors: No statutory or regulatory requirement but state medical board or medical association recommends indefinitely, if possible.

Hospitals:

Adult patients - 7 years following discharge of the patient.
Minor patients - 7 years following discharge or 1 year after the patient reaches the age of 18 (i.e., until patient turns 19) whichever is longer. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22, § 70751(c) (2008).

New York



Medical Doctors:

Adult patients - 6 years.
Minor patients - 6 years and until 1 year after the minor reaches the age of 18 (i.e., until the patient turns 19).

Hospitals:

Adult patients - 6 years from the date of discharge.
Minor patients - 6 years from the date of discharge or 3 years after the patient reaches 18 years (i.e., until patient turns 21), whichever is longer.
Deceased patients - At least 6 years after death.

Texas



Medical Doctors:

Adult patients - 7 years from the date of the last treatment.
Minor patients - 7 years after the date of the last treatment or until the patient reaches age 21, whichever date is later.

Hospitals:

Adult patients - 10 years after the patient was last treated in the hospital.
Minor patients - 10 years after the patient was last treated in the hospital or until the patient reaches age 20, whichever date is later.

Florida



Medical Doctors: 5 years from the last patient contact. Fla. Admin. Code Ann. 64B8- 10.002(3) (2008).

Hospitals:

Public hospitals: 7 years after the last entry. Florida Department of State, General Records Schedule GS4 for Public Hospitals, Health Care Facilities and Medical Providers, (2007)

New Jersey



Medical Doctors: 7 years from the date of the most recent entry. N.J. Admin. Code § 13:35-6.5(b) (2008).

Hospitals:

Adult patients - 10 years following the most recent discharge.
Minor patients - 10 years following the most recent discharge or until the patient is 23 years of age, whichever is longer.
Discharge summary sheets (all) - 20 years after discharge. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 26:8-5 (2008).

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