



Office of Statewide Health
Planning and Development

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How Does the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development Use Personal Data



Safety of Providing SSNs

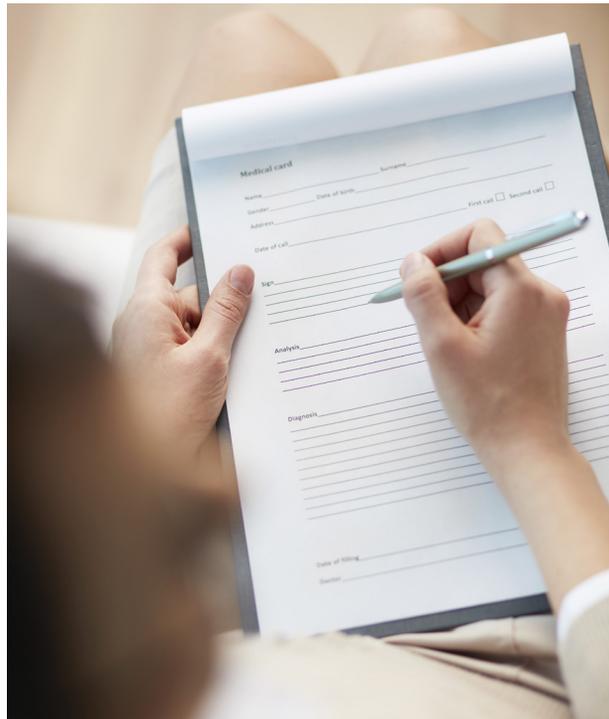
OSHPD has collected patients' healthcare data securely for more than 20 years. OSHPD meets and/or exceeds Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) security standards.



For more information about OSHPD and the State's collection of patient healthcare data please visit:

<http://oshpd.ca.gov/HID>

Use of Personal Data



By law hospitals and other health facilities are required to collect certain personal data from patients and provide this data to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), including date of birth, Social Security number (SSN) if available, preferred language spoken, race/ethnicity and other information.¹ Healthcare data is vital for research to improve the healthcare of all Californians.

Patient data provided to OSHPD is used to study healthcare trends, track and improve the quality of care, and inform healthcare policy and research. For example, researchers have used this data to conduct cancer research, to prevent unnecessary readmissions through more effective care, to develop ways of preventing infections, and to track the outcomes of medical procedures.

¹California Health and Safety Code Division 107, Part 5, Sections 128735, 128736 and 128737.

Protection of Personal Data



State and federal laws protect health information. Patient data is submitted to OSHPD via a secure connection. As an example of OSHPD's security measures, once received, the SSN is converted into a form that safely allows use for research but which cannot be decoded. This number, called a Record Linkage Number (RLN), cannot be used to identify the individual patient. Neither SSNs nor RLNs are ever published by OSHPD.