California Providers' Best Practices & GPRA Measures Conference

# Meeting Legal Requirements for Record Retention and Storage

May 21, 2018

# Agenda

- > Introduction
- > Retention
- Storage
- Destruction
- Questions



#### Record Retention and Destruction

- 1. Records retention schedule
- 2. Records destruction policy and procedure
- 3. Destruction and documentation, including:
  - a. Authorization form for each batch of records destroyed, with authorizing signatures and a list of records destroyed
  - b. Certificate of destruction from destruction vendor

#### Records Retention Schedule

#### Prepare with input from:

- Originating department
- Originating department's next higher level of management
- Legal counsel

- Legal requirements
  - Federal
  - State
- Statutes of limitations



- Accreditation
- Contracts, grants
- > Electronic records
- Legal hold
- Duplicate records



#### No requirements?

- Follow state statute of limitations
- Questionnaires, interviews, department procedures
  - Are the records vital?
  - What regulations/laws require the records to be created and retained?
  - Are the record referenced? How often?
  - How old are the records? Oldest record ever needed?
  - How long are the records kept?
  - What would happen if the older records could not be obtained?

- Who owns the information?
- Who uses the records?
- Is the information duplicated or summarized elsewhere?
- Is the information in multiple formats or mediums?
- What hardware/software is needed to support the records?
- How many records of this type are accumulated in a year?
- How much does it cost to maintain these records?
  - Labor, including staffing & overhead, retrieval & maintenance
  - Floor space and security (locks, alarms, sprinklers)
  - Filing equipment (shelving, cabinets), including depreciation
  - Filing supplies (boxes, file folders, labels)
  - Cost of destruction

# Records Destruction Policy & Procedure

- Use Records Retention Schedule to document policy and procedure
- Define where to store items
- Define how to store items
  - Container
  - Contents
  - Date range
  - Department name or cost center number
  - Planned destruction date

# Storage

- > Physical
  - Secured against intrusion
  - Protected from heat, smoke, water, pests and seismic activity
  - Locked, access control to all areas
- Administrative
  - Documented security measures for data and personnel
  - Background checks for all personnel
  - Confidentiality agreements
  - Annual Training: HIPAA, Privacy, Ethics

## Storage (continued)

- > Technical
  - Technology to protect information and control individual access to information
  - Firewalls to protect data
  - Data backed up daily
  - Business Continuity Plan
- Solution that works for healthcare
  - Extension of existing file room
  - Ease of access methods
  - Timely retrieval and delivery

#### Destruction

- Authorization to destroy records
- Confidential destruction
  - Paper
  - Film
  - Blocks, slides, hazardous waste





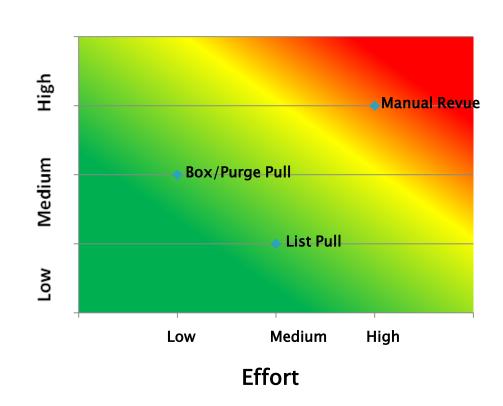
### **Destruction - Key Tips**

- > Have a destruction plan and budget
- Organize records for ease of future destruction
- Data elements
  - Vendor inventory vs. self-created list
  - Think of future destruction requirements

# Destruction of Medical Records – Examples

- > Pull from list
- Pull by box/purge
- Manual review

> Plan ahead!



# **Questions?**



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