

TAHOMA CLINIC

Clinic and Dispensary

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Why won't Tahoma Clinic e-mail me?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandates that any organization which maintains or transmits medical information electronically must make all of their electronic files for any of their patients accessible to any individual, entity, or organization designated by the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services without obtaining any sort of consent from the individual whose electronic records are disclosed.

Very briefly: if we e-mail you with medical information, not only your records, but every electronic record kept for anyone at Tahoma Clinic must be disclosed to anyone designated by *los federales* without anyone's knowledge or consent.

Oddly enough, fax messages and telephone calls are exempt.

If we do not keep or transmit medical and/or health information electronically, the only way anyone's medical record--including yours—can be read is with a warrant signed by a judge, as specified by the 4th Amendment to the Constitution of these United States. That's why your medical privacy here at Tahoma Clinic is much greater than nearly anywhere else.



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