Client Confidentiality

• HIPAA
  – HIPAA’s Privacy Rule addresses the use and disclosure of patient’s protected health information and establishes ground floor privacy protections for certain health information.
  – The Privacy Rule protects all individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper or oral.
• HIPAA cont.
  ▫ Individually identifiable health information is information that relates to the individual’s past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition, the provision of healthcare to that Individual, or the payment for the provision of healthcare to the individual, and that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe can be used to identify the individual.
    • This includes information in the medical record; conversations between practitioners, nurses and other providers; information in health insurers’ computer systems; and billing information held by facilities.
    • Such information is referred to as “protected health information” or “PHI” in the Privacy Rule and in practice. PHI includes many common identifiers such as name, address, birth date, social security number, and full face or comparable images and other unique identifying characteristics that could reasonably be used to identify an individual.