



NR360 Information system in Health Care

Week 4 RUA : We Can, But Dare We

Chamberlain University

November14th

## **Introduction**

The rapid emergence of Bacterium L21 has placed unprecedented pressure on healthcare professionals tasked with monitoring its spread and protecting public welfare. In the urgency to collect and analyze real-time data, however, ethical responsibilities and legal standards such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) remain paramount. Research demonstrates that even with sophisticated data systems, organisational failures in privacy governance can lead to substantial risks when sensitive information is exposed (Sangaraju, 2025). This paper examines the consequences of a HIPAA violation that occurs when a public health nurse, while investigating epidemic trends, recognizes a legislator's name in confidential records and subsequently discloses protected patient information on social media. The central argument of this analysis is that even in times of public health crisis, maintaining strict adherence to privacy laws is essential to preserve patient trust, uphold professional integrity, and prevent significant legal and ethical harm. Through exploration of the scenario, ethical frameworks, and regulatory requirements, this paper highlights how a single breach can undermine both individual privacy and community confidence, emphasizing the critical need for unwavering professional accountability during public health emergencies.

## **HIPAA, Legal, and Regulatory Discussion**

The intersection of technology and patient privacy has intensified the need for strict adherence to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) standards within nursing practice. HIPAA's Privacy Rule and Security Rule establish clear expectations for safeguarding protected health information (PHI), particularly as electronic health records, mobile devices, and digital communication platforms become integral to public-health surveillance and