

Table A-3. Maximum Time Permitted Under State Law for Doctors and Hospitals to Respond to Patient Requests for Medical Records

Summary of statute or regulation.

State	Medical Doctors	Hospitals
Alabama	N/A	N/A
Alaska	N/A	N/A
Arizona	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	Health care providers have “reasonable time” to respond to requests for medical records. Ark. Code Ann. § 16-46-106(c) (2008).	Health care providers have “reasonable time” to respond to requests for medical records. Ark. Code Ann. § 16-46-106(c) (2008).
California	A health care provider must permit inspection of patient records within 5 working days after receipt of the written request. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123110(a) (2008). The health care provider must provide copies within 15 days after receiving the written request. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123110(b) (2008).	A health care provider must permit inspection of patient records within 5 working days after receipt of the written request. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123110(a) (2008). The health care provider must provide copies within 15 days after receiving the written request. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123110(b) (2008).
Colorado	A copy of patient records must be made available to the patient upon written authorization-request for a copy upon reasonable notice and payment of the reasonable costs. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1-802 (2007). The Colorado Board of Medical Examiners has concluded that except where medical urgency otherwise requires a more prompt response, 30 days is “reasonable notice” when records have been requested. See Colorado Board of Medical Examiners, Policy 40-7: “Guidelines Pertaining to the Release and Retention of Medical Records.” Available at: http://www.dora.state.co.us/Medical/policies/40-07.pdf (accessed September 16, 2008).	Inpatient While an inpatient in a facility, a person may inspect patient records within a reasonable time, which should normally not exceed 24 hours of the request (excluding weekends and holidays). Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1-801(1) (2007); 6 Colo. Code Regs. § 1011-1, chap. II, 5.2.2.1 (2008). Discharged patients The facility generally must make a copy of the patient’s record available or make the record available for inspection within a reasonable time, from the date of the signed request, normally not to exceed 10 days, excluding weekends and holidays. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-1-801(1) (2007); 6 Colo. Code Regs. § 1011-1, chap. II, 5.2.3.2 (2008).
Connecticut	A provider must furnish a health record within 30 days of the patient’s request. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-7c(c) (2008).	N/A

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State	Medical Doctors	Hospitals
Delaware	A health care provider must furnish records within 45 days of receipt of original request or 14 days after receipt of payment for copies, whichever is later. Del. Code Ann. tit. 10, § 3926(a) (2008).	A health care provider must furnish records within 45 days of receipt of original request or 14 days after receipt of payment for copies, whichever is later. Del. Code Ann. tit. 10, § 3926(a) (2008).
District of Columbia	A physician must provide the patient a copy of the medical record within 30 days of the request. D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 17, § 4612.2 (2008).	N/A
Florida	Health care practitioners must, upon a person's request, furnish copies of all reports and records related to examination and treatment in a timely manner, without delays for legal review. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 456.057(6) (2008).	Hospitals must, upon a person's request, furnish copies of all reports and records related to examination and treatment in a timely manner, without delays for legal review. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 395.3025(1) (2008).
Georgia	A health care provider must furnish medical records requested by the patient within 30 days of the receipt of a request. Ga. Code Ann. § 31-33-2(b) (2008).	A health care provider must furnish medical records requested by the patient within 30 days of the receipt of a request. Ga. Code Ann. § 31-33-2(b) (2008).
Guam	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	N/A	N/A
Idaho	N/A	N/A
Illinois	Generally, a health care practitioner must respond within 30 days of the receipt of a written request for patient records. If the practitioner needs more time to comply with the request, then within 30 days the practitioner must provide the requesting party with a written statement of the reasons for the delay and the date by which the requested information will be provided. In any event, the practitioner must provide the requested information no later than 60 days after receiving the request. 735 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/8-2001(e) (2008).	Generally, a health care facility must respond within 30 days of the receipt of a written request for patient records. If the practitioner needs more time to comply with the request, then within 30 days the practitioner must provide the requesting party with a written statement of the reasons for the delay and the date by which the requested information will be provided. In any event, the practitioner must provide the requested information no later than 60 days after receiving the request. 735 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/8-2001(e) (2008).
Indiana	N/A	N/A

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Iowa	A physician must provide a copy of all medical records generated by the physician in a timely manner to the patient or another physician designated by the patient. Iowa Admin. Code r. 653-13.7(7) (2008).	N/A
Kansas	A health care provider must furnish copies of a health care record within 30 days of the receipt of the authorization. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-4971 (2007).	A health care provider must furnish copies of a health care record within 30 days of the receipt of the authorization. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-4971 (2007).
Kentucky	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	A provider generally must furnish a copy of the record no more than 15 days following the receipt of the request. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 40:1299.96(c) (2008).	A provider must furnish a copy of the record no more than 15 days following the receipt of the request. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 40:1299.96(c) (2008). Hospital Records and Retention Act A hospital generally must furnish hospital records no more than 15 days following the receipt of a request for records and upon payment of the reasonable cost of reproducing the records. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 40:2144(D) (2008) (“as soon as practicable”); Dept. of Health and Hospitals, Hospital Licensing Standards, Final Rule, 29 La. Reg. 2399, 2415 (Nov. 20, 2003) (to be codified at La. Admin. Code 48:I. Ch. 93) (establishing 15 days as the maximum).
Maine	A health care practitioner must release copies of a patient’s treatment records, or a narrative of those records, within a reasonable time. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, § 1711-B (2008).	A hospital must make copies of a patient’s medical records available within a reasonable time. Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 22, §1711 (2008).
Maryland	A health care provider must respond to a request for access within a reasonable time that is no more than 21 working days after the request. MD. Code Ann., Health–Gen. §§ 4-304(a)(1); 4-309(a) (2008).	A health care provider must respond to a request for access within a reasonable time that is no more than 21 working days after the request. MD. Code Ann., Health–Gen. §§ 4-304(a)(1); 4-309(a) (2008).
Massachusetts	Providers generally must furnish record “upon request” and “in a timely manner.” 243 Mass. Code Regs. § 2.07(13)(b) (2008).	N/A

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State	Medical Doctors	Hospitals
Michigan	A health care provider or health facility must respond not later than 30 days after receipt of the request. If the medical record is not maintained or accessible on-site, the health care provider or health facility must respond within 60 days after receipt of the request. If a health care provider or health facility cannot respond within these time limits, they may have one extension of 30 days. Mich. Comp. Laws § 333.26265 (2008).	A health care provider or health facility must respond not later than 30 days after receipt of the request. If the medical record is not maintained or accessible on-site, the health care provider or health facility must respond within 60 days after receipt of the request. If a health care provider or health facility cannot respond within these time limits, they may have a one extension of 30 days. Mich. Comp. Laws § 333.26265 (2008).
Minnesota	Upon a patient's written request, a provider must promptly furnish the records. Minn. Stat. § 144.292, subd. 5(1) (2007).	Upon a patient's written request, a provider must promptly furnish the records. Minn. Stat. § 144.292, subd. 5(1) (2007).
Mississippi	Upon receipt of the written release and authorization, the physician must provide a copy of the patient's medical records within a reasonable period of time. 50-013-001 Miss. Code R., Art. XII (D) (2008).	N/A
Missouri	Health care providers, including physicians, must provide copies within a reasonable time of the receipt of the request. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 191.227 (2008).	Health care providers, including hospitals, must provide copies within a reasonable time of the receipt of the request. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 191.227 (2008).
Montana	Non-HIPAA-Covered Health Care Providers A health care provider must respond promptly, however no later than 10 days after receipt of the request unless the information is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed handling the request, in which case the health care provider must provide access or copies within 21 days. Mont. Code Ann. § 50-16-541 (2007).	Non-HIPAA-Covered Health Care Providers A health care provider must respond promptly, however no later than 10 days after receipt of the request unless the information is in use or unusual circumstances have delayed handling the request, in which case the health care provider must provide access or copies within 21 days. Mont. Code Ann. § 50-16-541 (2007).

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Nebraska	<p>Copies The provider must furnish a copy of the patient’s medical records not later than 30 days after receiving a written request. Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-8403(2) (2008).</p> <p>Inspection The provider must make a patient’s medical records available for examination as promptly as required by the circumstances, but no later than 10 days after receiving the request to examine. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-8403(3) (2008).</p>	<p>Copies The provider must furnish a copy of the patient’s medical records not later than 30 days after receiving a written request. Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-8403(2) (2008).</p> <p>Inspection The provider must make a patient’s medical records available for examination as promptly as required by the circumstances, but no later than 10 days after receiving the request to examine. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-8403(3) (2008).</p>
Nevada	<p>The provider must provide access within 10 working days after the request. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 629.061 (2007).</p>	<p>The provider must provide access within 10 working days after the request. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 629.061 (2007).</p>
New Hampshire	<p>A physician must provide a copy of the patient’s medical records within 30 days of receipt of written authorization, unless the nature of the medical treatment requires an immediate response. N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann. Med 501.02 (f)(4) (2008).</p>	<p>Individual hospital policy determines the procedures for release of information from patient medical records. N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann. HeP 802.06(f) (1994). *</p> <p>*These hospital licensure rules have expired, but, as of June 2008, they were still in current use by the state Bureau of Licensing & Certification.</p>
New Jersey	<p>A physician must provide a copy of the treatment record no later than 30 days from receipt of a request from a patient or an authorized representative. N.J. Admin. Code § 13:35-6.5(c)(1) (2008).</p>	<p>A hospital must provide one copy of the record within 30 days of the patient’s request. N.J. Admin. Code § 8:43G-15.3(d).</p>
New Mexico	<p>A physician must provide copies in a “timely manner.” N.M. Code R. § 16.10.17.8 (2008). See also N.M. Stat. Ann. § 61-6-15 (2008) (providing for the revocation or suspension of a medical license for “unprofessional or dishonorable conduct,” including failure to provide medical records in a timely manner).</p>	N/A

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State	Medical Doctors	Hospitals
New York	<p>A health care provider must provide a subject the opportunity to inspect his or her patient information within 10 days. N.Y. Pub. Health Laws § 18 (2) (a) (2008).</p> <p>If a practitioner does not have space available to permit the inspection of patient information, a practitioner may furnish a copy of the information within 10 days. N.Y. Pub. Health Laws § 18 (2) (g) (2008).</p> <p>Otherwise, a health care provider must furnish copies of patient information to a qualified person within a “reasonable time.” N.Y. Pub. Health Laws § 18 (2) (d) (2008).</p>	<p>A health care provider must provide a subject the opportunity to inspect his or her patient information within 10 days. N.Y. Pub. Health Laws § 18 (2) (a) (2008).</p> <p>A health care provider must furnish copies of patient information to a qualified person within a “reasonable time.” Id. at (2)(d).</p>
North Carolina	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	N/A	N/A
Ohio	<p>A health care provider must permit the patient to examine the record or provide a copy of the record requested within a reasonable time after receiving a written request. Ohio Rev. Code § 3701.74(B) (2008).</p>	<p>A health care provider must permit the patient to examine the record or provide a copy of the record requested within a reasonable time after receiving a written request. Ohio Rev. Code § 3701.74(B) (2008).</p>
Oklahoma	N/A	N/A
Oregon	<p>Physicians must comply with a request for medical records within a reasonable amount of time not to exceed 30 days from the receipt of the request. Or. Admin. R. 847-012-0000(5) (2008).</p>	N/A
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A
Puerto Rico	<p>A patient is entitled to receive a copy of the patient’s medical record from a doctor within 5 days. P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 24, § 3049(e) (2005).</p>	<p>A patient is entitled to receive a copy of the patient’s medical record from a hospital within 15 working days. P.R. Laws Ann. tit. 24, § 3049(e) (2005).</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Requested records must be provided within 30 days of the receipt of the written request or signed authorization for records. R.I. Code R. 14 140 031 (2008).</p>	<p>Records must be provided within 30 days of the request or within 30 days of completion of the medical record (whichever is later). R.I. Code R. 14 090 007 § 27.15 (2008).</p>

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South Carolina	N/A	A hospital must comply with a request for copies of a medical record no later than 45 days after the patient is discharged or 45 days after the request is received, whichever is later. S.C. Code Ann. § 44-7-325(B) (2007).
South Dakota	N/A	N/A
Tennessee	A health care provider must furnish a copy or summary of the record within 10 working days of receipt of written request. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-2-101 (2008).	A hospital must furnish the patient's hospital records without unreasonable delay upon receiving a written request. Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-11-304 (a) (1) (2008).
Texas	A physician must respond to a written request for medical records not later than the 15th business day after receipt of the request. Tex. Occ. Code Ann. § 159.006(d) (2007).	A hospital must respond to a written authorization to examine or copy a patient's recorded health care information not later than the 15th day after the date the request and payment for providing the information is received. Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. § 241.154(a) (2007).
Utah	<p>HIPAA-Covered Health Care Providers Are required by state law to follow HIPAA's standards for inspecting and copying records. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-5-618 (2008). For specific requirements, see "HIPAA Health Privacy Rule" column, this chart.</p> <p>Non-HIPAA Covered Health Care Providers N/A</p>	<p>HIPAA-Covered Health Care Providers Are required by state law to follow HIPAA's standards for inspecting and copying records. Utah Code Ann. § 78B-5-618 (2008). For specific requirements, see "HIPAA Health Privacy Rule" column, this chart.</p> <p>Non-HIPAA Covered Health Care Providers N/A</p>
Vermont	A physician must respond promptly to a written request for a copy of a patient's health care records. Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 26, § 1354(a)(10) (2007); accord Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 3, § 129a(a)(8) (2007).	N/A
Virginia	A health care entity must generally furnish copies of a health record to a patient within 15 days of receipt of a request. Va. Code Ann. § 32.1-127.1:03 (E) (2008).	A health care entity must generally furnish copies of a health record to a patient within 15 days of receipt of a request. Va. Code Ann. § 32.1-127.1:03 (E) (2008).

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State	Medical Doctors	Hospitals
Washington	<p>A health care provider must respond to a patient's written request to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information as promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than 15 working days after receiving the request.</p> <p>If the information is in use or there are unusual circumstances of delay, the provider may delay furnishing the record no later than 21 working days after receiving the request.</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code § 70.02.080 (2008).</p>	<p>A health care provider must respond to a patient's written request to examine or copy all or part of the patient's recorded health care information as promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than 15 working days after receiving the request.</p> <p>If the information is in use or there are unusual circumstances of delay, the provider may delay furnishing the record no later than 21 working days after receiving the request.</p> <p>Wash. Rev. Code § 70.02.080 (2008).</p>
West Virginia	<p>A health care provider must furnish a copy of a patient's health care record within a reasonable time of the patient's request.</p> <p>W. VA. Code § 16-29-1 (2008).</p>	<p>A health care provider must furnish a copy of a patient's health care record within a reasonable time of the patient's request.</p> <p>W. VA. Code § 16-29-1 (2008).</p>
Wisconsin	<p>Inspection</p> <p>Upon reasonable notice, a health care provider must permit a patient to inspect the patient's health care records at any time during regular business hours.</p> <p>Wis. Stat. § 146.83(1)(a) (2007).</p> <p>Copies</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Inspection</p> <p>Upon reasonable notice, a health care provider must permit a patient to inspect the patient's health care records at any time during regular business hours.</p> <p>Wis. Stat. § 146.83(1)(a) (2007).</p> <p>Copies</p> <p>N/A</p>
Wyoming	<p>Physicians must comply with the patient's written request within a reasonable period or no more than 30 days, whichever is shorter.</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-26-402(a) (Q) (2008) (prescribing disciplinary action for failure to respond within 30 days) and 024-052-003 Wyo. Code R. § 4(a) (Weil 2008).</p>	<p>A hospital must make the information available for examination and copying as promptly as required under the circumstances, but no later than 10 days after receiving the written request. If the information is in use or there are unusual circumstances of delay, the hospital delay furnishing the record no later than 21 days after receiving the request.</p> <p>Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 35-2-611(a)(iv) (2008).</p>

N/A—No applicable statute or regulation found.