

HIPAA & JCAHO Requirements Consultative and Direct Care Services

The NARMC Telemedicine Directorate has several Consultative and Direct Care Services / products to include: Teledermatology, Telebehavioral Health, Soldier Readiness Center Patient Appointment System, Running Shoe Clinic, Orthopedic Scoliosis, and the NARMC TeleHealth Portal supporting Generic, Pathology, and Plastic Surgery consultation.

JCAHO/Accreditation:

All of the above consultative tools are available to the DoD Health Care Provider community and as such, any recommendations provided by the medical specialists can be accepted or rejected by the requesting Health Care Provider (HCP) who has the ultimate authority for the health care of the patient. As such, the medical specialist is not required to be credentialed at the requesting site according to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (JCAHO).

JCAHO/Consultant Validation:

Each Web-application requires that the consultant upon providing a recommendation to the HCP enter his/her password again to validate that indeed they are the one making the recommendation for treatment and medication.

HIPAA Compliance:

For DoD patients, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides the guidelines to protect patient medical information. In support of this requirement, all NARMC Web-based application communications are secured with the latest standardized Web-base encryption, currently 128-bit. The patient electronic medical record is stored in a separate secure database located behind the organization's firewall. Access to the patient data is controlled through the use of authorized registered users as directed by Army Regulation 25-2, Information Assurance dated 14 November 2003. These applications/systems are accredited in accordance with the Department of Defense Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process (DITSCAP).

New tools to satisfy HIPAA requirements were developed and implemented to include: the necessity for the patient to sign electronically the Notice of Privacy Practice, Privacy Act, Patient Rights, and the Informed Consent forms upon their first login, when the patient changes the facility, or when the required for patient access to the system.