

Coming in November: Awareness, Celebration, and Recognition of Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week – also known as Compliance Week at UNM Health Sciences Center.

Privacy in a Public Life

In the HSC Privacy Office, we respond to questions, concerns, and requests ranging from access to medical records to complex privacy investigations. We take each seriously, working with patients and colleagues to protect confidential information and maintain trust.

We also recognize that healthcare work can be demanding. Taking time to decompress and connect with others supports well-being. When discussing work, however, we must protect the privacy of our patients and respect our colleagues.

Social media makes it easy to share experiences and celebrate accomplishments. It also allows information to travel quickly beyond its intended audience. Posts can be copied, saved, and shared, even after the original content is deleted. Privacy settings and private groups do not eliminate that risk.

Protecting privacy is a shared responsibility, from frontline staff to executive leadership. Before posting, keep these practices in mind:

- Protect patient information: Do not share identifiable patient information, photographs, video, or audio on social media without a valid HIPAA-compliant written authorization covering the intended use and completion of the organization's required review process. Verbal permission alone is insufficient.
- Look beyond names: A description, date, location, image, or combination of details may identify a patient even when their name is omitted. Removing a name does not necessarily make information safe to share.
- Check the background: Screens, documents, whiteboards, badges, and conversations captured in photographs or recordings may reveal confidential information.
- Use appropriate support channels: Seek support through approved workplace resources and protect patient confidentiality when discussing difficult experiences.
- Ask before sharing: Consult the HSC Privacy Office and the appropriate communications team before sharing patient stories or department achievements that may involve patient information.
- Report concerns promptly: If you suspect patient information has been shared





inappropriately, contact the HSC Privacy Office so the concern can be assessed and addressed.

Leaders help establish these expectations by modeling responsible communication and supporting staff who raise questions or concerns. Respecting coworkers' personal information also strengthens a culture of trust and professionalism.

We can celebrate our work and support one another while protecting the people who depend on us. The HSC Privacy Office is available to answer questions and help employees make informed decisions.

For contact information, guidance, and authorization forms, visit the HSC Privacy Office website here.

Scan this QR Code to download the 2026 Compliance Week Schedule of Events or find on the Compliance Week Website.

While you're there, you can learn more about your automatic eligibility to win a loaded swag bag for completing the 2026 required compliance training: General Compliance; Fraud, Waste, and Abuse; and Code of Conduct/Codes of Professionalism and Conduct.

