

MEDICAL RECORDS PRIVACY

1 Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., is concerned about confidentiality
2 with respect to access to individuals' medical records.

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4 Today's modern computer technology has speeded the transmission of medical information,
5 enabling doctors and hospitals to coordinate patient care and insurers to speed reimbursement.

6 In addition, it has aided researchers in finding cures more quickly. As a result, a patient's
7 records, previously available only at the family doctor's office, are now accessible to health
8 insurers, pharmacists, state public health organizations, life insurance companies and even
9 employers, all without the patient's knowledge or consent.

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11 Currently, no federal law specifically protects the confidentiality of such health information.
12 Moreover, state protections vary widely.

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14 Therefore, Hadassah pledges to work toward the passage of strong federal legislation that
15 protects the privacy of medical records and to inform Hadassah members of the imperative of
16 working toward that end.