

Medical Records Retention by State

State	State Codes, Regulations, or Laws Resources	Retention Requirements
Alabama	ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 420-5-7-.13 https://bit.ly/3PXOkve	<p>Hospitals: Alabama hospitals must keep patient records for a minimum of five (5) years after patient discharge. Minor patients' records must be kept for five (5) years after they have reached adulthood.</p> <p>Physicians: Private practices must keep records "as long as may be necessary to treat the patient and for medical and legal purposes." Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p>
Alaska	ALASKA STAT. § 18.20.085 https://bit.ly/3vhwriQ	<p>Hospitals: Alaska state law requires that hospitals retain records for seven (7) years following the release of the patient. Records concerning patients under the age of 19 must be kept for seven (7) years or until the patient reaches the age of 21, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Physicians: Alaska does not offer medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p>
Arizona	ARIZ. REV. STAT. ANN. § 12-2297 https://bit.ly/3ODpqzP	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: Arizona state statute covers retention policy for all medical care providers, including both hospitals and private practices. Adult medical records are kept for six (6) years; minor patient records are kept for six (6) years or until the patient reaches the age of 21, whichever is longer.</p>

<p>Arkansas</p>	<p>ARK. CODE R. § 007.05.17</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3b6wPtP</p>	<p>Hospitals: Arkansas state law requires hospitals to keep records for ten (10) years following the last discharge of the patient, and in the case of minor patients, until two (2) years after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians: Arkansas does not offer medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p>
<p>California</p>	<p>22 CA ADC §70751</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3BfKw47</p>	<p>Hospitals: The California Code of Regulations mandates that hospitals keep patient records for seven (7) years following patient discharge, and in the case of minors, seven (7) years or one year after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians: California does not offer medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p>
<p>Colorado</p>	<p>6 COLO. CODE REGS. § 1011-1: IV-8.102</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3S0FnD3</p>	<p>Hospitals: Colorado mandates that hospitals keep records for ten (10) years after the most recent patient care. In the case of minors, Colorado requires retention of records for ten (10) years following the patient turning 18.</p> <p>Physicians: Colorado does not offer medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p>

Connecticut	<p>CONN. AGENCIES REGS § 19-13-D3</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3PFVODe</p>	<p>Hospitals: Connecticut law requires hospitals to keep records for ten (10) years after patient discharge.</p> <p>Physicians: Private practices must keep records for seven (7) years after last date of treatment, or in the case of patient death, three (3) years.</p>
Delaware	<p>DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 24 § 1761</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3z9cDiW</p>	<p>Hospitals: Delaware does not offer medical records retention guidance for hospitals. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.</p> <p>Physicians: Delaware state codes require private practices to keep medical records for seven (7) years after the last entry date on the patient's record.</p>
Florida	<p>FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. 64B8-10.002</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3vi2bEt</p>	<p>Hospitals: The Florida Department of State mandates that public hospitals keep records for seven (7) years after the final entry into the patient's records.</p> <p>Physicians: Florida administrative codes require private practices keep patient records for five (5) years after final patient contact.</p>
Georgia	<p>GA. COMP. R. & REGS. § 111-8-40-18</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3PC6Nh7</p>	<p>Hospitals: Georgia code requires that hospitals keep records for five (5) years following the date of patient discharge, or in the case of minor patients, for five (5) years after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians: Georgia code requires that private practices hold records for ten (10) years from the date the record item was created.</p>
Hawaii	<p>HAW. REV. STAT. § 622-58</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3OJJ25y</p>	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: Hawaii offers blanket guidance for all medical care providers. Full patient</p>

		records should be kept for seven (7) years following last patient contact. For minors, records must be kept for seven (7) years following the patient's 18 th birthday.
Idaho	IDAHO CODE ANN. § 39-1394 https://bit.ly/3BnratY	Hospitals: Public hospitals in Idaho must keep records and reports from clinical lab tests for five (5) years. Physicians: Idaho offers no distinct records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.
Illinois	210 ILL. COMP. STAT. § 85/6.17 https://bit.ly/3OF9eho	Hospitals: Illinois law requires hospitals keep patient records for ten (10) years after the discharge of the patient. Physicians: Illinois offers limited guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for medical records retention policy.
Indiana	IND. CODE § 16-39-7-1 https://bit.ly/3zzscSh	Hospitals and Physicians: Indiana requires medical records retention periods for seven (7) years for both hospitals and private practices.
Iowa	IOWA ADMIN. CODE R. 653-13.7 https://bit.ly/3PAT0r9	Hospitals: Iowa offers limited guidance for public hospitals. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy. Physicians: Iowa enforces a seven (7) year retention period from the date of last service for private practice medical records and one (1) year after a minor turns 18.

<p>Kansas</p>	<p>KAN. ADMIN. REGS. § 28-34-9a</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3vi44Rz</p>	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: Kansas requires both hospitals and private practices retain their records for ten (10) years after the patient's discharge or final record entry. For minors, the same period or one (1) year beyond the patient's 18th birthday applies, whichever is longer.</p>
<p>Kentucky</p>	<p>902 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 20:058</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3JeLxeP</p>	<p>Hospitals: Kentucky requires that hospitals retain patient records for five (5) years following the discharge of the patient, or in the case of minors, for five (5) years or until the patient turns 21, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Physicians: Kentucky offers no state guidance for medical records retention for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.</p>
<p>Louisiana</p>	<p>LA. REV. STAT. ANN.§ 40:2144</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3b2AJ77</p>	<p>Hospitals: Louisiana requires hospitals keep their records for ten (10) years following the discharge of the patient.</p> <p>Physicians: Private practices must retain records for six (6) years following the date a patient is last seen.</p>
<p>Maine</p>	<p>22 MRS §1711</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3OAahzd</p>	<p>Hospitals: Maine state codes require hospitals to keep records for seven (7) years, or in the case of minor patients, until six (6) years after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians: Maine state codes also mandate permanent retention for certain patient data, including x-ray reports. Maine does not offer specific guidance for private</p>

		practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
Maryland	MD. CODE REGS. §10.01.16.04 https://bit.ly/3z4DMDA	Hospitals and Physicians: Maryland offers a standard retention period for both hospitals and private practices of five (5) years. In the case of minor patients, the period is five (5) years or three (3) years after the patient turns 18, whichever is longer.
Massachusetts	243 MASS. CODE REGS. § 2.07 https://bit.ly/3z2sOhK	Hospitals: Massachusetts law requires that hospitals retain records for twenty (20) years after the discharge or final treatment of the patient. Physicians: Massachusetts regulatory codes mandate a seven (7) year retention period for adult patients. For minor patients, the period is seven (7) years or until the patient turns 18, whichever is longer.
Michigan	MICH. COMP. LAWS § 333.16213 https://bit.ly/3vivJBV	Hospitals and Physicians: Michigan law requires that both private practices and hospitals retain their records for seven (7) years from the date of the patient's discharge or last treatment.
Minnesota	MINN. STAT. § 145.32 https://bit.ly/3Pyda4S	Hospitals: For public hospitals, Minnesota requires mixed retention periods for varying types of records. Ultimately, hospitals must keep patient records for seven (7) years, or in the case of minors, for seven (7) years after the patient turns 18. Physicians: Minnesota offers limited retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines

		for records retention policy or contact Cariend to learn more about retention policy in Minnesota.
Mississippi	MISS. CODE ANN. § 41-9-69 https://bit.ly/3PXV5Ny	Hospitals: Mississippi enforces different retention periods for patient records depending on certain details about the patient. For adults discharged “in sound mind”, records must be held for ten (10) years. For deceased patients, records must be held for seven (7) years. For minor patients, records must be held for the period of minority plus seven (7) years, but not to exceed twenty-eight (28) years. X-ray films and other graphic data must be retained for four (4) years. Physicians: Mississippi offers limited retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy, or contact Cariend to learn more about retention policy in Mississippi.
Missouri	MO. REV. STAT. § 334.097 https://bit.ly/3z4HNla	Hospitals: Missouri requires that public hospitals keep adult records for ten (10) years and minor patient records for ten (10) years, or until the patient turns 23. Physicians: Private practices must keep records for seven (7) years following the last date of service.
Montana	MONT. CODE ANN. § 50-16-513 MONT. ADMIN. R. 37.106.402 https://bit.ly/3Be0Dzk	Hospitals: Montana requires public hospitals retain a patient’s entire medical record for ten (10) years following discharge or patient death. For minors, the period is through the patient’s 18 th birthday

	https://bit.ly/3S3Mmel	<p>(or death, whichever is earlier), plus ten (10) years.</p> <p>Health care providers must also maintain records of existing health care information for one (1) year following receipt of authorization to disclose that information.</p> <p>Physicians: Montana offers limited retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.</p>
Nebraska	<p>175 NEB. ADMIN CODE § 9-006</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3BhT8qW</p>	<p>Hospitals: Nebraska administrative codes require hospitals to retain records for ten (10) years, or in the case of minor patients, ten (10) years or until three (3) years after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians: Nebraska offers limited retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.</p>
Nevada	<p>NEV. REV. STAT. § 629.051</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3zxqpNK</p>	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: Nevada enforces the same retention period of five (5) years across both public and private institutions. In the case of minor patients, the period is for five (5) years following the patient's 18th birthday.</p>
New Hampshire	<p>N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. He-P 802.20</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3J76Kam</p>	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: New Hampshire enforces the same retention period of seven (7) years after patient discharge for both hospitals and private practices. In the case of minors, the period is seven (7) years or until the patient reaches age 19, whichever is longer.</p>

New Jersey	<p>N.J. STAT. ANN. § 26:8-5</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2QUscopy</p>	<p>Hospitals: New Jersey requires hospitals to keep records for ten (10) years following patient discharge.</p> <p>Physicians: Private practices must keep them for seven (7) years. New Jersey enforces unique retention periods for discharge summary sheets.</p>
New Mexico	<p>N.M. CODE R. § 16.10.17.10</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3baEHdM</p>	<p>Hospitals: New Mexico requires hospitals retain records for a standard of ten (10) years after discharge. For minors, records must be retained until the patient reaches 21 years of age.</p> <p>Physicians: Private practices must navigate existing Medicare laws and insurance mandates and add two (2) years to all requirements therein to meet state retention standards. This generally means at least ten (10) years from the date of the last treatment. Private practices must retain records for minor patients until the patient turns 21.</p>
New York	<p>N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. § 405.10</p> <p>https://on.ny.gov/3ozbCM0</p>	<p>Hospitals and Physicians: New York holds hospitals and private practices to the same retention standard of ten (10) years for adult patients. standards for minor patients. In the case of minor patients, the period is for six (6) years or until three (3) years after the patient turns 18. Deceased patient records must be held for six (6) years beyond the date of death.</p>
North Carolina	<p>10A N.C. ADMIN. CODE § 13B.3903</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3PRKjrY</p>	<p>Hospitals: North Carolina requires that hospitals keep records for eleven (11) years following the last treatment of the patient, and in the case of minors, until the patient's 30th birthday.</p>

		<p>Physicians: North Carolina does not offer clear retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.</p>
North Dakota	<p>N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 33-07-01.1-20</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3z8E5NB</p>	<p>Hospitals: North Dakota enforces a patient record retention period of ten (10) years for hospitals, and in the case of minor patients, ten (10) years or until the patient's 21st birthday, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Physicians: North Dakota does not offer direct medical records retention guidance to private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.</p>
Ohio	<p>OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 2913.40</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3J5LQZt</p>	<p>Hospitals: Ohio offers no direct guidance for medical records retention policy in the form of state law or code. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy, or contact Cariend to learn more about retention policy in Ohio.</p> <p>Physicians: The provider of a health care service must retain medical records for Medicaid patients for six (6) years from the date of discharge.</p>
Oklahoma	<p>OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 310:667-19-14</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3zuaDSH</p>	<p>Hospitals: Oklahoma requires hospitals to keep records for five (5) years after the date the patient was last seen (or in the case of patient death, three (3) years). In the case of minor patients, records must be kept until their 21st birthday.</p> <p>Physicians: Oklahoma offers limited medical records retention guidance for private practices.</p>

		Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
Oregon	OR. ADMIN. R. 333-505-0050 https://bit.ly/3vipoGB	Hospitals: Oregon requires that hospitals keep records for ten (10) years beyond the last date of patient treatment. Oregon also requires master patient records to be kept permanently. Physicians: Oregon offers limited medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
Pennsylvania	28 PA. CODE § 115.23 https://bit.ly/3oDULrm https://bit.ly/3S2TJCV	Hospitals: Pennsylvania requires medical records be kept a minimum of seven (7) years following the discharge of a patient. If the patient is a minor, records shall be kept until the age of majority, and then for seven (7) years “or as long as the records of adult patients are maintained.” Essentially, hospitals must retain patient records for minors until the patient reaches age 25, or seven (7) years after a patient turns 18 years old. Physicians: Private practices must retain adult patient records for a minimum of seven (7) years from the date of the last medical service. The medical records for a minor patient must be retained until one (1) year after the minor patient reaches majority, even if that means the physician retains the records for a period of more than seven (7) years.
Rhode Island	31-5-41 R.I. CODE R. § 11.0 31-4-18 R.I. CODE R. § 27.0 https://bit.ly/3JbD9Nd	Hospital and Physicians: Rhode Island requires that both hospitals and private practices keep records

		<p>for five (5) years after the patient is discharged.</p> <p>In the case of minor patients, hospitals must keep records for five (5) years after the patient turns 18.</p> <p>Physicians must retain all medical records for seven (7) years.</p>
South Carolina	<p>S.C. CODE ANN. § 44-115-120 S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-16 § 1107</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3vjuvGH https://bit.ly/3vHIVkj https://bit.ly/3S38NAt</p>	<p>Hospitals: South Carolina requires that hospitals retain medical records for ten (10) years. In the case of minor patients, medical records must be retained until the patient turns 18 years old and the “period of election” passes. Functionally, this means when the patient turns 19.</p> <p>Physicians: South Carolina requires physicians to retain medical records for at least ten (10) years for adult patients. Minor patient records must be held for thirteen (13) years. Minimum recordkeeping periods begin from the last date of treatment.</p>
South Dakota	<p>S.D. ADMIN. R. 44:73:09:06 S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 36-4-38</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3Q3HVyF https://bit.ly/3PPfBzQ</p>	<p>Hospitals: South Dakota hospitals must keep records for ten years following the discharge or last care of the patient. In the case of minor patients, the retention period is ten years or until two (2) years after the patient turns 18, whichever is longer.</p> <p>Physicians: South Dakota requires private practices to hold records until the point when records have become inactive or for which the whereabouts of the patient are unknown to the physician.</p> <p>Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited or vague legal guidelines for records</p>

		retention policy or contact Cariend to learn more about medical records retention in South Dakota.
Tennessee	TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 1200-08-01-.06 TENN. COMP. R. & REGS. 0880-02-.15 TENN. CODE ANN. § 68-11-305 TENN. CODE ANN. § 68-11-307 https://bit.ly/3vknGok https://bit.ly/3OxwYEg	Hospitals and Physicians: Tennessee requires all medical care providers to adhere to a retention policy of ten (10) years for adult medical records. For minor patients, the period is ten (10) years or until the patient's 19 th birthday, whichever is longer.
Texas	22 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 165.1 TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 241.103 https://bit.ly/3A0oCAX https://bit.ly/3ows7Jl	Hospitals: Texas requires hospitals to keep patient records for ten (10) years following discharge, and in the case of minor patients, for ten (10) years or until the patient turns 20 years old, whichever is longer. Physicians: Private practicing doctors in Texas must keep medical records for seven (7) years, and in the case of minor patients, for seven (7) years or until the patient reaches age 21, whichever is longer.
Utah	UTAH ADMIN. CODE §432-100-33 https://bit.ly/3b4TlVj	Hospitals: Utah requires that hospitals keep patient records for seven (7) years, or in the case of minors, seven (7) years or until the minor patient turns 22, whichever is longer. Physicians: Utah offers limited medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
Vermont	12-5-14 VT. CODE R. §946 VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 18 § 1905 https://bit.ly/3zEm9w1	Hospitals: Vermont requires hospitals to keep records for ten (10) years after patient discharge.

		Physicians: Vermont offers limited medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
Virginia	18 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 85-20-26 12 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 5-410-370 https://bit.ly/3S3Yv32 https://bit.ly/3OAIf1D	Hospitals: For Virginia hospitals, the period is five (5) years, or in the case of minor patients, when the patient turns 23. Physicians: For private practices, Virginia requires a retention period of six (6) years, or in the case of minor patients, six (6) years or until the patient reaches age 18 or becomes emancipated, whichever is longer.
Washington	WASH. REV. CODE § 70.41.190 https://bit.ly/3PGu7dA	Hospitals: Washington requires hospitals keep their adult patient records for ten (10) years, and minor patient records for ten (10) years or until the patient reaches the age of 21, whichever is longer. Physicians: Washington offers limited medical records retention guidance for private practices. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy.
West Virginia	W.VA. CODE R. 64-12-7 https://bit.ly/3QklhzB	West Virginia offers no direct guidance for medical records retention policy in the form of state law or code. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy, or contact Cariend to learn more about retention policy in West Virginia.
Wisconsin	WIS. ADMIN. CODE MED §21.03	Hospitals and Physicians: Wisconsin requires all medical care providers follow the same retention

	<p>WIS. ADMIN. CODE DHS §124.14</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3za7bw8 https://bit.ly/3cKJMKn</p>	<p>standard of five (5) years past the date of last entry in the record.</p>
Wyoming	<p>WYO. STAT. ANN. § 35-2-606</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3JFHFUw</p>	<p>Hospitals: Wyoming hospitals must retain patient medical records for three (3) years.</p> <p>Physicians: Wyoming offers no direct guidance for private practice medical records retention policy in the form of state law or code. Consult LINK for more on what to do when your state offers limited legal guidelines for records retention policy or contact Cariend to learn more about retention policy in Wyoming.</p>

Disclaimer: This table is designed to provide introductory insight into complex laws governing state medical records retention policy. This resource should not be used for legal purposes, nor should it be used as the sole reference in forming or implementing an organizational retention policy. Please consult an attorney with specific legal issues related to medical records retention.

The information featured in this download is current as of July 2022 but can change in the future.