**Fahey, S. (2007).** [**For your eyes only.**](http://0-proquest.umi.com.novacat.nova.edu/pdf/6b2fcf0e22fe12749a2601967073cf54/1225734270/share4/pqimage/pqirs102/20081103121430284/5306/out.pdf) ***Occupational Health*, 59 (1), 13-14.**

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Information retrieval in the health care field includes the additional aspect of potentially sharing this information with not only other health care providers, but many others, including some that are not always for one’s patient’s or the provider’s benefit. Fahey reviews the importance of transparency when developing any documents that later may be retrieved through the many overarching laws. The laws allow some data/information to be available to any who ask through the correct channels. She discussed the various federal laws that one needs to consider when beginning to develop policies, procedures or even databases.

Fahey outlines only the British laws, but the British laws are parallel to the many laws in place in the United States and the process proposed would be applicable. The exceptions to the disclosure of information is sharing information that may be harmful to a patient include their mental health status, or a physical condition. Otherwise, the perceptive and prudent administrator would set up systems knowing that a potential exists for the records to be accessible by many through these laws. The system and the many policies that need to accompany a retrieval system are important factors to be considered and incorporated prior to a request for specific information as many of these requests are by law time sensitive with financial implications if not completed within the specified times.

Health care data also has specific storage and retention periods that need to be considered for all data including electronically stored data. The security of the storage systems to include password protection and the time period for retaining data is dependent upon the type of information as well as the type of care given to the patient. The policies and all documentation are also retrievable aspects of care. Thus when crafting a new policy - administrators should be not only thinking of the reasons for that policy, but also the impact it may have if discoverable under the current laws.

The laws are an important aspect of information retrieval that can affect not only the process and the actual forms to save the information, but the policies and procedures that accompany those processes. Knowing the law is an important and necessary function of the administrator that is responsible for these systems and understanding the various laws as outlined by Fahey will assist her in this function.