

**Table A-6a. Overview: State Medical Record Laws: Minimum Number of Years Adult Patient Medical Records Must Be Retained by Medical Doctors**

State	5	6	7	10	Other
Alabama	—	—	—	—	• <sup>(1)</sup>
Alaska	—	—	—	—	—
Arizona	—	•	—	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	—	—
California	—	—	—	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—	—	—
Connecticut	—	—	•	—	—
Delaware	—	—	•	—	—
District of Columbia	—	—	—	—	3
Florida	•	—	—	—	—
Georgia	—	—	—	•	—
Guam	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	• <sup>(2)</sup>	—	• <sup>(2)</sup>
Idaho	—	—	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—	—	—
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	—	—	•	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—	•	—
Kentucky	—	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	—	•	—	—	—
Maine	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	•	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	—	—	•	—	—
Michigan	—	—	•	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	—	—	—	—	—
Missouri	—	—	•	—	—
Montana	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	•	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	—	•	—	—
New Jersey	—	—	•	—	—
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	• <sup>(3)</sup>
New York	—	•	—	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	—	—	—
North Dakota	—	—	—	—	—
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—	—	—

(continued)

**Table A-6a. Overview: State Medical Record Laws: Minimum Number of Years Adult Patient Medical Records Must Be Retained by Medical Doctors (continued)**

State	5	6	7	10	Other
Pennsylvania	—	—	•	—	—
Puerto Rico <sup>(4)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	•	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	•	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	• <sup>(5)</sup>
Tennessee	—	—	—	•	—
Texas	—	—	•	—	—
Utah	—	—	—	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	—	•	—	—	—
Washington	—	—	—	—	—
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	•	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	4	11	4	5

<sup>(1)</sup> As long as necessary to treat the patient and for medical legal purposes.

<sup>(2)</sup> Full medical records must be maintained 7 years. Basic information (i.e., patient's name, birthdate, diagnoses, drugs prescribed) must be kept 25 years.

<sup>(3)</sup> Two years beyond what is required by Medicaid and Medicare requirements (5 years) and by state insurance laws.

<sup>(4)</sup> Based only on statutes, not on regulations, which generally are available only in Spanish.

<sup>(5)</sup> May destroy when records have become inactive or records for which whereabouts of patient are unknown to physician.

**Table A-6b. Overview: State Medical Record Laws: Minimum Number of Years Adult Patient Medical Records Must Be Retained by Hospitals**

State	5	6	7	10	Other
Alabama	•	—	—	—	—
Alaska	—	—	•	—	—
Arizona	—	•	—	—	—
Arkansas	—	—	—	•	—
California	—	—	•	—	—
Colorado	—	—	—	•	—
Connecticut	—	—	—	•	—
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	—	—	—	•	—
Florida	—	—	•	—	—
Georgia	•	—	—	—	—
Guam	—	—	—	—	—
Hawaii	—	—	• <sup>(1)</sup>	—	• <sup>(1)</sup>
Idaho	• <sup>(2)</sup>	—	—	—	—
Illinois	—	—	—	•	—
Indiana	—	—	•	—	—
Iowa	—	—	—	—	—
Kansas	—	—	—	• <sup>(3)</sup>	• <sup>(3)</sup>
Kentucky	•	—	—	—	—
Louisiana	—	—	—	•	—
Maine	—	—	•	—	—
Maryland	•	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—	30
Michigan	—	—	•	—	—
Minnesota	—	—	—	—	Forever <sup>(4)</sup>
Mississippi	—	—	—	•	—
Missouri	—	—	—	•	—
Montana	—	—	—	• <sup>(5)</sup>	• <sup>(5)</sup>
Nebraska	—	—	—	•	—
Nevada	•	—	—	—	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—	•	—
New Jersey	—	—	—	• <sup>(6)</sup>	• <sup>(6)</sup>
New Mexico	—	—	—	•	—
New York	—	•	—	—	—
North Carolina	—	—	—	—	11
North Dakota	—	—	—	•	—
Ohio	—	—	—	—	—
Oklahoma	•	—	—	—	—
Oregon	—	—	—	•	—

(continued)

**Table A-6b. Overview: State Medical Record Laws: Minimum Number of Years Adult Patient Medical Records Must Be Retained by Hospitals (continued)**

State	5	6	7	10	Other
Pennsylvania	—	—	•	—	—
Puerto Rico <sup>(7)</sup>	—	—	—	—	—
Rhode Island	•	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	—	—	—	•	—
South Dakota	—	—	—	•	—
Tennessee	—	—	—	•	—
Texas	—	—	—	•	—
Utah	—	—	•	—	—
Vermont	—	—	—	•	—
Virginia	•	—	—	—	—
Washington	—	—	—	•	—
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—
Wisconsin	•	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	3	9	22	7

<sup>(1)</sup> Full medical records must be maintained 7 years. Basic information (i.e., patient's name, birthdate, diagnoses, drugs prescribed) must be kept 25 years.

<sup>(2)</sup> Clinical laboratory test records and reports must be kept at least 5 years after test date.

<sup>(3)</sup> Full records may be destroyed after 10 years as long as they are summarized. Summary records must be kept 25 years.

<sup>(4)</sup> Most medical records must be kept permanently (microfilm or similar media allowed). Miscellaneous documents may be destroyed after 7 years.

<sup>(5)</sup> Entire medical record must be maintained 10 years. Core medical records must be kept an additional 10 years.

<sup>(6)</sup> Full record. Discharge summary sheets must be maintained for 20 years after discharge.

<sup>(7)</sup> Based only on statutes, not on regulations, which generally are available only in Spanish.