UCDMC Privacy Program

Flowchart B: Determining whether there is a use or disclosure of PHI on behalf of a health care provider

Is the vendor performing a function or service that does not involve the use of disclosure of PHI, and where any access would be incidental, if at all? E.g.,
- Janitorial service
- Electrician

NO

Is the vendor acting merely as a conduit for PHI? E.g.,
- US Postal Service
- Certain private couriers and their electronic equivalents

NO

Is the health care provider disclosing PHI to a health plan for payment purposes?

NO

Is PHI being disclosed to a researcher for research purposes, either with patient authorization (pursuant to a waiver), or as a limited data set?

NO

Is the health care provider participating in an organized health care arrangement (OHCA) and sharing PHI that relates to the joint health care activities of the OHCA?

YES

Is the health care provider purchasing a health plan product or other insurance (e.g., reinsurance) from an insurer?

NO

Is a financial institution conducting an activity that directly facilitates or effects the transfer of funds for payment for health care or health plan premiums? E.g.,
- Processing consumer conducted financial transactions by debit, credit, or other payment card
- Clearing checks
- Initiating or processing electronic funds transfers

NO

There probably is a use or disclosure of PHI on behalf of the health care provider.
- Consult with counsel if unsure

YES

There is no use or disclosure of PHI on behalf of the health care provider.