

HOW LONG SHOULD I RETAIN MY PATIENTS' MEDICAL RECORDS IN TENNESSEE?

For Tennessee, the patient medical record must be kept for ten years from the last professional contact with the patient. The medical record for minors must be kept for one year after they reach the age of majority or ten years after the last patient contact, whichever is longer.

Hospitals must keep and preserve records that relate directly to the care and treatment of a patient for the same time period following the date of discharge. Some records must be kept indefinitely, such as records for an incompetent person, and immunization records for all patients.

X-rays, radiographs, and other imaging products may be destroyed after four years, but only if there is a separate report interpreting the images. Mammography records must be kept for twenty years.

Patient records that are the subject of a dispute must be kept until the dispute is resolved, or the above rules have been met, whichever is longer.