

BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND SUPERVISION  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**MEDICAL RECORDS RETENTION**

The patient's medical records are the most important documents that a physician has and therefore need to be stored and maintained as securely as possible.

- They can save the patient a lot of time and expense when visiting another physician for similar medical issues; and
- They are invaluable in potential medical malpractice allegations; and
- Retention is often a legal part of the physician's provider contracts with insurance and third party payers.

It is generally recommended that a physician keep their medical records as follows:

**Adult:** Ten years from the last time the patient was seen

**Minor:** After the patient reaches age 20 or ten years from the last time the patient was seen, whichever is longer

**Deceased patient:** Six years past date of death.

The physician should also consider his/her type of practice and the potential for litigation. **Remember,** Oklahoma Law requires that you give a copy of the patient's complete medical chart to the patient if requested. (See citation below)

Title 76 § 19. Access to medical records—Copies—Waiver of privilege

Click here to see full text of: [Access to medical records](#)