

Is UnityPoint Health - Meriter part of the UW Health Care Component?

No.

The UW-Madison Health Care Component is included in the University of Wisconsin Affiliated Covered Entity (ACE)

An ACE consists of legally separate covered entities that are affiliated (under common ownership or control) and designate themselves as a single covered entity for purposes of complying with HIPAA.

UnityPoint Health – Meriter is not part of the UW ACE. [Read more here.](#)

How might this impact your research at Meriter?

Record Review Research

As an institution UnityPoint Health Meriter can only waive HIPAA Authorization and disclose patient information for record review research when there

- a. are specific study objectives
- b. is a specific plan for protecting identified data (data security, storage, and handling/transfer)
- c. is a specific plan with time points for destroying identifiers

Subject Recruitment

- You may contact patients about your research if they have signed a *Permission to Contact form* with their contact information.
- You may contact patients who reach you through a study email or phone number on a flyer, brochure, or other IRB approved promotional material.
- You may send an Opt-In letter to a prospective subject from Meriter that is signed by a willing Meriter Unit Manager or Director from a relevant clinical area.