

Table 4**Respondent States and Corresponding State Record Retention Laws for Acute Care General Hospitals**

State	# Responses/ State	State Record Retention Law
TX	8	10 years after last treatment (adults); 10 years after last treatment or at age 20 (minors)
NC	6	11 years after discharge (adults); at age 30 (minors)
AL	5	5 years
IL	5	In accordance with hospital policy based on American Hospital Association recommendations and legal opinion
MA	5	30 years after discharge or final treatment
PA	5	7 years after discharge (adults); until age of majority plus 7 years or as long as adults' records are maintained (minors)
UT	5	7 years after last date of patient care or 3 years after minor reaches age 18, whichever is first
WI	5	5 years after discharge
AR	3	10 years after discharge (adults); 2 years after age of majority (minors)
IN	3	7 years
OH	3	7 years or 6 years after fiscal audit (Title XIX records)
OK	3	5 years after last encounter or 3 years after patient death; 6 years (Medicaid records)
OR	3	10 years after last discharge
VA	3	5 years after discharge (adults); 5 years after age 18 (minors)
MS	2	7 years after death; 10 years (adults); period of minority plus 7 years (minors), but not to exceed 28 years
SC	2	10 years (adults); 1 year following majority (minors)
SD	2	10 years after late date of care (adults); age of majority plus 2 years or 10 years, whichever is longer (minors)
TN	2	10 years after discharge or death (adults); until majority plus 1 year or 10 years after discharge, whichever is longer (minors)
CA	1	7 years after discharge (adults) or 1 year after majority or at least 7 years (minors)
CO	1	10 years after most recent patient care (adults); age of majority plus 10 years (minors)
DC	1	10 years after patient discharge
FL	1	7 years after last entry
GA	1	6 years after discharge (adults); until age 27 (minors)
IA	1	In accordance with statute of limitations
MD	1	5 years after record is made (adults); age of majority plus 3 years or 5 years, whichever is later (minors)
MI	1	6 years (Medicaid)
MO	1	In accordance with statute of limitations (which is a maximum of 10 years)
NM	1	10 years after last discharge
ND	1	10 years after last treatment (adults); age 21 or 10 years after last treatment, whichever is later (minors)
RI	1	5 years after discharge (adults); 5 years after age 18 (minors)
WA	1	10 years after most recent discharge (adults); 3 years after age 18 or 10 years after most recent discharge, whichever is longer (minors)
WV	1	Period not stated; permanent retention implied

Source: Fletcher, Donna M., and Harry B. Rhodes. "Retention of Health Information" (Updated). AHIMA Practice Brief, Web extra (June 2002).