

Retention and Destruction of Health Information. Appendix D: AHIMA's Recommended Retention Standards (2011 update)

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Health Information	Recommended Retention Period
Diagnostic images (such as x-ray film) (adults)	5 years
Diagnostic images (such as x-ray film) (minors)	5 years after the age of majority
Disease index	10 years
Fetal heart monitor records	10 years after the age of majority
Master patient/person index	Permanently
Operative index	10 years
Patient health/medical records (adults)	10 years after the most recent encounter
Patient health/medical records (minors)	Age of majority plus statute of limitations
Physician index	10 years
Register of births	Permanently
Register of deaths	Permanently
Register of surgical procedures	Permanently

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