



ASQ Online and Confidentiality

HIPAA and FERPA Compliance

Brookes Publishing, the publisher of ASQ Online, is committed to keeping your data safe, secure, and private. ASQ Online uses robust security measures and employs the appropriate physical and technical safeguards to protect user data, child data, and other data entered by users in the ASQ Online system and ensure over time their continued confidentiality and correct use. If you need to comply with the rules and regulations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Brookes is able to become your Business Associate upon your request (for more details, please see the paragraph on HIPAA compliance later in this document).

Brookes's online systems are protected through the information technology (IT) management services of a Tier 1 hosting company; Fused Solutions, LLC has received its SAS 70 Type II certification, one of the most widely recognized auditing standards for IT service companies. Fused Solutions reached this level of recognition because of its longstanding record of reliability, security, and ability to safeguard IT operations. Brookes and Fused Solutions protect your information with industry standard Internet security measures. When you use our secure online services, we protect your data in a secure, restricted-access environment. Your account information or specific assessment data remain yours and cannot be shared with any third party without your prior approval.

Network Security

Browser-level encryption protects all of your confidential data and information. ASQ Online uses 128-bit Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) encryption, which is also employed by most financial institutions, medical data centers, and government agencies to ensure that data are secure from interception during transmission. To authorize and certify access, we use VeriSign, an advanced security solution designed to provide secure communications and transactions over the Internet and private networks. SSL prevents unauthorized access to your data.

Access Security

Our servers are protected by industry standard firewall technology. Only authorized traffic and requests from legitimate sources are allowed through our firewalls to ensure the safety of both user's data and our server equipment.

Data Security

Your information is stored on RAID 5 storage systems, which use redundancy to protect against data loss and are designed to recover data quickly in the event of a hardware or disk failure. Brookes Publishing takes precautions to protect the confidentiality and security of the data collected and stored in the site's database by using industry-recognized security safeguards such as firewalls, coupled with carefully developed security procedures to protect your information from loss, misuse, or unauthorized alteration.

Regular backups of the site and all data are made; all data are backed up in full on a weekly basis, with incremental backups being made daily. Backed-up data are stored in the managed host secure site for a period of 90 days.

Physical Security

Our databases and the servers on which we store site information are kept in a secure Tier 1 data center that includes physical security, conditioned power, environmental controls, uninterruptible power supplies, diesel generator, and fire suppression technologies.

Password Security

Users can only gain access to the system by providing a valid username and password combination, which is encrypted while in transmission. Password-protected information is only available to you or authorized users within your organization. No access is allowed to the site without a valid username and password combination. A username must be unique across the entire ASQ Online system, not just within a particular account. User passwords have a minimum length and are encrypted using a read-only method so they cannot be viewed or decrypted from the database.

Family Access Security

If you subscribe to Family Access, you can assure parents who enter data online that we employ the same security and data protection protocols mentioned in this document. These protocols will 1) ensure that the information they provide is secure from interception during transmission and 2) prevent unauthorized access to their data. Any data that are submitted by a caregiver can only be viewed by users who have authorized access to your account and have been assigned a role that allows the viewing of those data.

HIPAA Compliance

If you are a “covered entity” as that term is defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) implementing regulations with regard to the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, Brookes is prepared to become your Business Associate, as defined by HIPAA, when you are an ASQ Online subscriber. Upon submission of your desired template for your Business Associate Agreement, Brookes shall, upon review and acceptance, commit in writing to the mandatory provisions in HIPAA regarding the use and disclosure of protected health information, as the terms “use,” “disclosure,” and “protected health information” are defined in HIPAA in the Privacy Rule. We provide a secure online environment to protect the privacy of our ASQ Online subscribers and their users, as described above.

FERPA Compliance

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. This law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. If this law applies to your organization and you are an ASQ Online Authorized User, you must be aware of your obligations under this law and respect its terms. ASQ Online provides a secure environment in which you can be sure you are complying with FERPA if necessary.

For more information, [contact your sales representative](#) or call 1-800-638-3775.