

Creation of HIPPA Compliant Repository for Medically Challenging Cases



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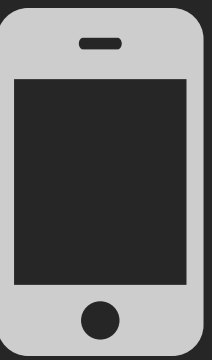
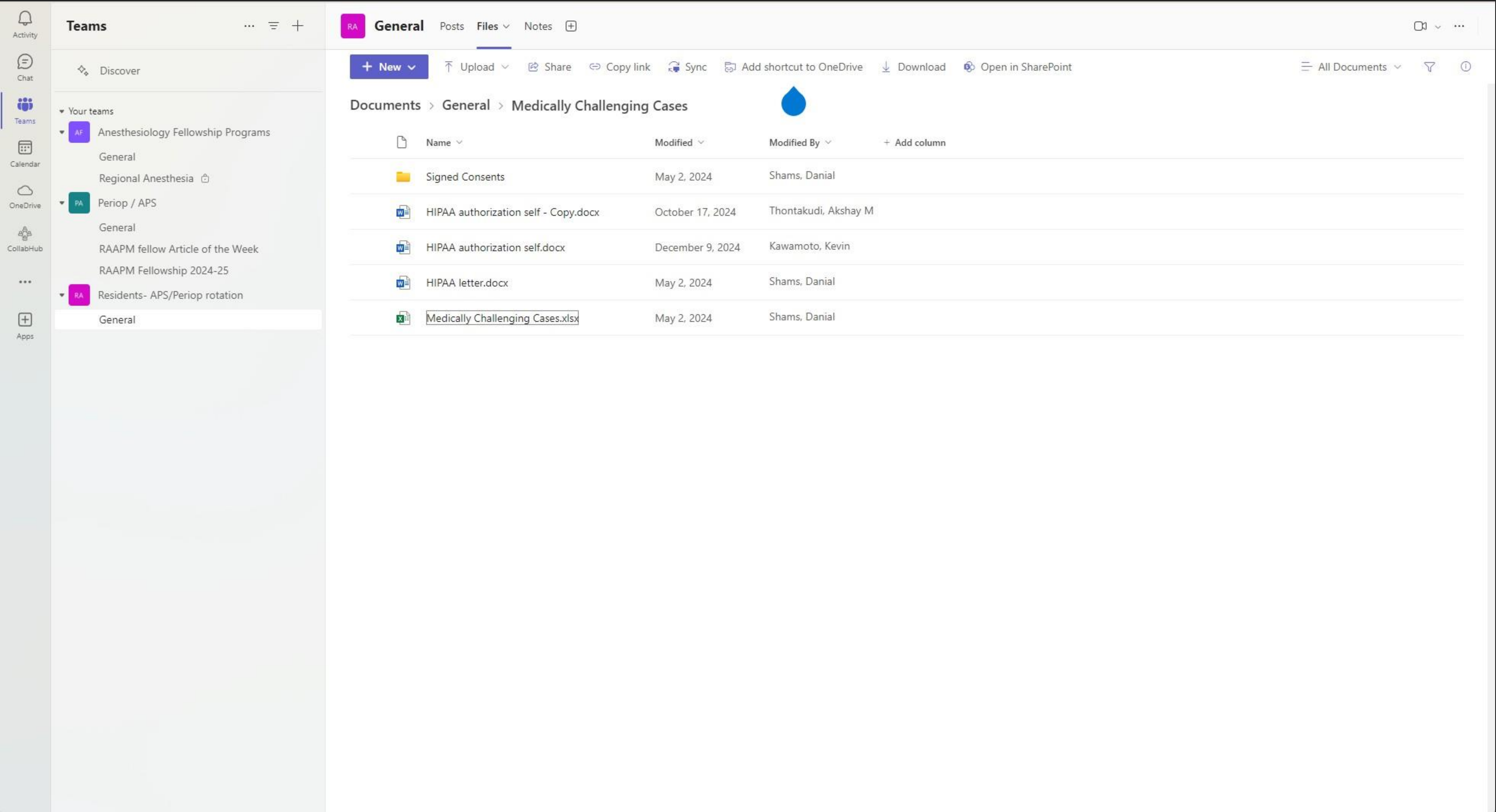
Background

Anesthesiologists encounter a wide variety of pathologies that require creative treatment plans that would be prudent to share with other colleagues to generate conversation and open avenues for further studies. With the constantly changing treatment teams in large academic centers, identifying trends may be difficult. Creating a database that is easily accessible and compliant with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) is challenging and warranted exploration.

Materials and Methods

Following discussions with the Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) compliance/research division and the Institutional Review Board (IRB), it was confirmed that Microsoft Teams is HIPPA compliant. An excel sheet was created in the Acute Pain Service (APS) Teams folder with cells for basic information regarding the cases. In addition, a consent form for use/disclosure of Patient Health Information (PHI) was added. The database is ongoing.

Microsoft Teams can act as a HIPPA compliant repository for medically challenging cases.



Take a picture to
download the references

Discussion

Case repositories require two basic features:
1.) must be HIPPA compliant and ensure protection of patient PHI
2.) easily accessible, updateable and readable
VUMC APS utilizes Microsoft Teams for a wide variety of daily service activities (task assignment, team communication and sharing of PHI for consults). Given our high-volume service and large catchment area, our service sees many unusual cases. Due to the nature of specialty services at large academic centers, the teams are constantly changing (attending, fellows, residents and etc.) which makes follow up on interesting cases difficult. With the creation of our HIPPA compliant medically challenging case repository in Microsoft Teams, our service rotators can easily add to our ongoing database which could allow us to identify trends for case series, create opportunities to present case reports for interested residents and fellows and identify avenues for future research.

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