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## **HIPAA Compliant and Secured Content-Based Support Environment for Temporal Lobe Epilepsy**

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### **Abstract**

Inter-institutionally accessible medical databases are crucial in collaborative research work. They raise three important issues: 1) security, 2) transaction logging, and 3) privacy. In this paper we briefly introduce our multi-modality image database for temporal lobe epilepsy and its security and transaction logging models. One issue that necessitates the inter-institution collaborative research work concerns the limited number of patients admitted to each medical institution. In many cases, the institutions must share sensitive patient data for research purposes. While complying with HIPAA regulations, they need to maintain the usability of the shared data. We use a "Safe Harbor" strategy with maximum data suppression. However, the usability of the proposed privacy model is maintained by providing all the operators (averaging, time difference, etc.) with the unsuppressed data and removing the sensitive part just before having them displayed to user.

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