



HIPAA-Safe Usability Testing Checklist

Use this checklist to ensure your usability testing sessions are compliant, ethical, and effective—without compromising patient data or care.



Pre-Session: Compliance and Privacy

- ☐ Use anonymized or dummy data only (no real patient records).
- ☐ Obtain signed informed consent from all participants.
- ☐ Review data-sharing agreements with any third-party platforms.
- ☐ Check if Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required.
- ☐ Ensure all recordings are stored securely and de-identified.

Recruitment

- ☐ Screen participants by role (clinician, admin, patient, caregiver).
- ☐ Avoid collecting personal health information (PHI).
- ☐ Use role-based or scenario-driven testing to simulate real use cases.
- ☐ Provide participants with clear session expectations and opt-out options.

During the Test

- ☐ Use sandbox environments or test servers only.
- ☐ Assign a neutral moderator—not the product designer.
- ☐ Avoid identifying details in screen recordings or notes.
- ☐ Monitor and document participant comfort with test pacing and language.
- ☐ Observe but don't interfere—avoid leading the participant.

Post-Session

- ☐ Redact or anonymize session transcripts and recordings.
- ☐ Store signed consent forms securely (if required).
- ☐ Share findings with internal teams using de-identified data.
- ☐ Re-confirm data deletion policies with test platforms/tools.