Feelpath Researcher Guide: Privacy, Confidentiality, & Compliance (US-only)

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Abstract

This guide explains, in plain language, how Feelpath approaches privacy, confidentiality, and compliance for research collaborations. It separates what is true today from what is proposed or planned for research partners. US-only for now.

Keywords: HIPAA, privacy, confidentiality, compliance, research, therapy transcripts

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Purpose. This guide explains, in plain language, how Feelpath approaches privacy, confidentiality, and compliance for research collaborations.

US-only for now. We currently support US-based research workflows. International research support is on our roadmap.

Important note. This document is informational and is not legal advice. Research partners are responsible for their study design and ethics approvals (for example, IRB review) and for ensuring their use of Feelpath fits their institution's requirements.

High-level overview

What we do today

- **BAAs with core vendors.** We have BAAs in place with the vendors we use to run Feelpath, including Zoom, AWS, Kinde, and OpenAI.

- **Consent at session start.** Participants choose what to save and what to share at the start of a session (based on the options in the join flow).

- **Audit logging.** We maintain HIPAA-compliant audit logging to support accountability and review.

Proposed study modes (proposal)

These are proposed collaboration modes that we can align on with research partners:

- **Mode A: Clinical / PHI studies.** Studies that use identifiable clinical data. This mode is stricter by design and would use tighter access controls and partner-specific governance.

- **Mode B: De-identified research datasets.** Studies that use datasets prepared to be safer to share and analyze across sites. This mode is designed to reduce exposure while supporting research workflows.

How research data works in Feelpath (plain language "methods")

What we collect

- **Session basics (metadata).** For example: timestamps, participants, and basic technical/session details.

- **Consent choices.** What each participant chose (for example, whether to save a transcript for insights and whether to share it).

- **Transcript (when enabled).** The session transcript, if transcription is enabled and saved.

- **AI outputs (when enabled).** Insights/notes/summaries produced from the transcript if AI features are enabled.

When we collect it

- **At session start:** consent choices are made.

- **During the session:** the transcript is produced if enabled.

- **After the session:** insights are produced if enabled.

How it becomes research data

- **Today:** exports are oriented around the session speaker (for example, exporting what that speaker said).

- **Proposal:** research exports designed for study use (for example, CSV/JSON), with a clear field list (a "data dictionary") so analysis is straightforward.

- **Proposal:** de-identification support for research exports. We are de-identification-ready in the sense that we plan to build this as a first-class capability when a research collaboration requires it.

How measures are computed

In Feelpath research work, "measures" are the numbers or labels computed from language (for example, an ALI facet score).

- **Proposal:** publish plain-language definitions for each measure and what data it uses.

- **Proposal:** keep scoring definitions stable for studies by versioning them (so a cohort remains comparable over time).

Feelpath research study templates (plain language)

Templates are starter materials a research team can adapt so they do not have to write everything from scratch.

Proposed templates (proposal)

- **IRB-ready study description.** Plain-language description of what participants do, what is collected, and how it is protected.

- **Consent language blocks.** Short text snippets a lab can paste into consent forms (and edit) to describe data collection and sharing choices.

- **Data dictionary for exports.** A simple list of export columns and what each column means.

Links

- **Researcher guide (web):** `https://feelpath.com/researcher-guide`

- **Privacy page (web):** `https://feelpath.com/privacy`

- **Research page (web):** `https://feelpath.com/research`