



HIPAA UPDATE - DECEMBER 2004

HIPAA! For more information including answers to frequently asked questions, educational materials, information on the law, regulations and enforcement go to our **Website** – <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa/hipaa2>.

Security Deadline –

Remember the deadline to become compliant with the HIPAA Security provisions is April 20, 2005-only six months away! The deadline for compliance for small health plans is April 20, 2006. Thirteen new HIPAA Security questions were

recently added to the FAQ section of our website. Topics include: PHI Coverage; Compliance and Certification; Risk Analysis, Management and System Vulnerabilities; Physical Safeguards; Encryption and other technical safeguards; as well as information on NIST publications.

National HIPAA Roundtable

CMS will host the National HIPAA NPI Roundtable conference call on December 15, 2004 at 2:00PM ET. The call in number is **1-877-203-0044** and the identification number is **1598382**.
No cost or registration required.

National Provider Identifier (NPI)

The Final Rule adopting the HIPAA standard unique health identifier for health care providers was published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2004. Information on applying for NPIs will be available in mid 2005. All health care providers are eligible to be assigned NPIs; health care providers who are HIPAA covered entities must obtain and use NPIs. All HIPAA covered entities must use NPIs by the compliance dates (May 23, 2007 for all but small health plans; May 23, 2008 for small health plans). The Request for Proposals for the NPI Enumerator (RFP-CMS-2005-0004) can be found at:

<http://vsearch1.eps.gov/servlet/SearchServlet>

Enter "NPI" in the "Full Text Search" box and click on "Start Search." This takes you to the posting. The Enumerator is the entity that will interface between the National Provider System and the health care industry, acting under the direction of CMS to perform a variety of functions.

HIPAA Transaction and Code Set Complaint Information- ASET

The Administrative Simplification Enforcement Tool (ASET) is an electronic compliance tool to assist health care providers, payers, clearinghouses and others submit complaints related to the HIPAA electronic transactions and code sets. ASET enables individuals or organizations to file a complaint against an entity whose actions impact the ability of a transaction to be accepted and/or efficiently processed. If you feel you have a HIPAA transaction and/or code set complaint, go to the CMS **website** and link to the HIPAA Enforcement.

Latest News - ASC X12 - Launches Implementation Guide Request for Interpretation Web Site.

The Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 and the Data Interchange Standards Association (DISA) are pleased to announce the launch of the ASC X12 Implementation Guide Request for Interpretation Web site.

The site initially gives visitors "access to the experts" in the ASC X12 Insurance Subcommittee (ASC X12N) for those Implementation Guides that have been adopted for use under HIPAA. The site allows for submission of detailed questions about interpretation of the guides. While it does not replace the need for standards implementers to read the guides and do their own analysis, it does provide a location to find resolution of issues of interpretations or inconsistencies within or between the guides.

The Web site serves as the interface to a database or repository of questions and answers from expert volunteers within the Insurance Subcommittee. As requests and responses are accumulated, the site allows searching of the database and access to prior interpretations, making it an invaluable resource for implementers.

The Implementation Guide Interpretations Web site is accessed via www.x12.org by clicking on Quick Links and choosing X12 Interpretations within the pull-down menu.

ASC X12 benefited from the technical expertise of Washington Publishing Company in the development of the Web site and database. All X12N Implementation Guides, including those adopted under HIPAA, are available from the WPC web site: <http://www.wpc-edi.com>

View HIPAA Presentations

Presentations can be viewed via your own computer at your own pace for FREE. To access these presentations, click on the following link: http://www.eventstreams.com/cms/tm_001/

You can choose any of the following presentations:

- 1) Message to Providers
- 2) HIPAA Basics
- 3) Provider Steps to Getting Paid
- 4) HIPAA Security
- 5) CMS Enforcement of TCS
- 6) 837 for Professional Claims
- 7) 837 for Institutional Claims

CONTACT US WITH YOUR HIPAA QUESTIONS

CMS HIPAA Hotline # **866-282-0659**

HIPAA FAX toll free # **877-326-1165**

HIPAA TTY toll free # **877-326-1166**

E-mail us at askhipaa@cms.hhs.gov

CMS HIPAA 101 Video and CD-Rom:

HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets videos are still available. Order online for only \$13.00 at

<http://www.ntis.gov>.