

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE MATTERS

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EVERCARE: SUCCESS THROUGH COMPLIANCE

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REAL CASES:

I am confused about HIPAA Privacy and Confidentiality. Are they the same?

No. HIPAA Privacy relates to specific personal identifiable health care info such as one's name, address, social security #, medical history, etc. Some may think this Privacy info can be used interchangeably with HIPAA – not so!

Confidentiality is a much broader and inclusive concept. Healthcare organizations handle and come in contact with far more info that is confidential than is covered by HIPAA. It includes not just clinical but business and financial data, trade secrets, revenue figures, marketing strategies, etc.

EVERCARE'S ANNUAL COMPLIANCE TRAINING

Mark your calendar! The annual EverCare compliance integrity training plan starts next month. Your attendance is required. Attend any one of three sessions on September 15, 20 and 22! The training has been revised and updated since last year. Materials will be provided in a Question and Answer format. Each session is just one hour. More details to be provided.

FAXES AND THE FACTS

There have been a number of questions regarding our faxes and PHI. Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, health care providers can share PHI for treatments without patient authorization as long as there are "reasonable safeguards." Our faxes are not located in a public space – good! The most secured way to send information is through our encrypted email system and to mark it confidential. For faxes – we have made it more secure! The fax cover page and all attached pages now needs to be marked confidential. More on this at the upcoming training.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND PRIVACY

Privacy – standards set by HIPAA for the protection of certain individual health information known as protected health info (PHI) such as one's name, address, date of birth, full face photos, finger prints, social security and medical record numbers, fax/phone/account/driver's license/numbers, etc.

Security – standards for access and protecting electronic health information (EHR) of medical records and how it is protected and the safeguards ensuring its appropriate protection.

Q: Why are there 8 elements in EverCare's Compliance Plan?

A: As a health care provider in NYS, EverCare is required to have 8 elements in its Compliance Integrity Program. Today's newsletter will cover the first element and continue with the other elements in future newsletters. The first element is to have a written plan including written policies, procedures and standard of code/ethics with a full commitment to comply with all applicable federal and NYS standards plus describe expectations of all employees.

Q: What are generally the top 4 areas most widely assessed in health care?

A: Coding, billing, medical necessity, documentation

ACRONYMS – TODAY'S TOP 5:

- 1) CDPAS – Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Services
- 2) ICD – International Classification of Diseases
- 3) MR – Medical Review
- 4) NTUC – Not taken under care
- 5) PODS – Person Oriented Delivery System

"Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way there are" Bertolt Brecht
