

New Technology, New HIPAA Changes

A new set of HIPAA patient privacy regulations will impact practices and physicians everywhere with stronger legal scrutiny and higher fines in place. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has updated the rules governing the security of patient privacy established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

Previously, practices were required to disclose information breaches to patients and the federal government only when the information was determined to have notable risk to the patient. With these new regulations in place, any incident that has the potential to breach patient information must be reported. Penalties have been increased up to a maximum of \$1.5 million for multiple, similar violations within a calendar year.

Practices and physicians have until September 23, 2013, to comply with these new protocols. With physicians increasingly sharing electronic patient information through mobile devices, including laptops and tablets, it remains imperative that precautions be taken to protect both the patient and the physician. Medical practices and physicians should implement a breach avoidance plan and security risk assessment on all activities associated with storing and transferring patient information. In addition, physicians should ensure that

information is kept safe with encrypted data on portable devices. Those using mobile devices should be clear on what their responsibility is for keeping protected health information (PHI) secure, and how to avoid a HIPAA breach. The safest tools are those that do not store PHI, thoroughly encrypt any exchanged information, verify the recipients of any communication, and allow for locking the device and/or disabling the tool remotely in the event the device is lost or stolen.

Since HIPAA was enacted over 15 years ago, much has changed within the health care field and how patient information is shared. As technology advances, new regulations must emerge with it. Physicians can stay ahead of the curve with proper knowledge and information to safeguard patient data in this evolving digital era.

Send HIPAA-Secure Messages and Images with DocbookMD

Conventional text messaging violates HIPAA regulations as the information sent and received is not encrypted, and may be stored on the mobile device used.

With DocbookMD, MSMA's newest membership benefit, you can securely share protected health information with your medical colleagues just as easily as texting.

ONLY MSMA members are allowed access to this mobile app. Visit your mobile app store to download DocbookMD or visit www.docbookmd.com.

Institute for International Medicine (InMed) achieves highest CME accreditation level

MSMA's Commission on Continuing Education awarded the highest accreditation level to InMed recently, which is the first Missouri-accredited provider to receive accreditation with commendation.

InMed is a non-profit, educational organization that equips health care professionals and students to serve in underserved and cross-cultural contexts. InMed offers training courses, events, and international service-learning opportunities. Visit www.inmed.us.

This honor, "Accreditation with Commendation," is awarded to accredited entities that demonstrate compliance with all twenty-two criteria. The provider is awarded a six-year term of accreditation compared to the standard four-year term. All accredited entities must comply with Criteria 1-15 which addresses the purpose and mission of the organization, education and planning, and evaluation and improvement. To receive commendation, an organization must also demonstrate it uses continuing medical education as a tool to improve quality performance and health outcomes, and that it collaborates with internal and external stakeholders to further quality improvement which is addressed in Criteria 16-22.

Medicaid to Pay Medicare Rates

Beginning in January 2013, Medicaid primary care services provided by physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine are eligible for increased payments for primary care E/M codes 99201-99499.

This payment increase is not automatic. Physicians must complete the 'Certification and Attestation for Primary Care Rate Increase' available from MO HealthNet Provider Bulletin, Volume 35 Number 03, at

http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pdf/bulletin35-03_2012jul31.pdf.

Since each state Medicaid program must file a plan amendment and receive approval from CMS, these payments have yet to begin in Missouri. It is expected they will begin by July.

Miss a General Session or MSMA Workshop?

Handouts for MSMA's General Sessions and past Workshops can be found at www.msma.org.

QRUR reports available until April 30

QRUR reports will be available until April 30 for physicians practicing in groups of twenty-five or more eligible professionals who provided care to Fee-for-Service Medicare patients during calendar year 2011.

You can access your reports and additional information regarding the Physician Feedback Program on the QRUR website at <https://www.qrurinfo.com/qrur/procertex/lookup/qrurLoad.do>.

Groups that want one electronic file containing all physicians' reports may send an email request to QRUR@cms.hhs.gov.



Progress *Notes*

April 2013

MSMA Reporting the Progress of Missouri's Medicine

www.msma.org

Tort Reform 2013 Missouri State Medical Association White Coat Rally Day



Tuesday, April 30 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Join MSMA and the Missouri Tort Reform Coalition to lobby at the Capitol on HB 112 in an effort to reinstate the non-economic damages caps.

Tuesday, April 30, 10 am - 4 pm

Senators and Representatives need to see our white coats there, and physician visibility is paramount.

For details, visit www.showmetortreform.com



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Legislator!**

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