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Lexington Chapter

Practice Pros

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President's Message

Theresa Falcone, CPC, CPC-H, CPC-P

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - Otherwise Known as HIPAA

Thank you so much to ***Darra James Coleman with Rogers, Townsend and Thomas*** for delivering a very comprehensive, yet thorough delivery of what HIPAA means to us.

In 1996, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued the Privacy Rule implementing requirements of the Health

Insurance Portability and Accountability Act– known as HIPAA. I am sure most of you recall your office transformation of *everything* back in 2002-2003 and every activity, training, etc. leading up to the event. One message – HIPAA affects every process.

As we know, the main goal of the HIPAA Privacy Rule is to assure all health related information is properly protected while allowing for communication and information flow. HIPAA's privacy rule does provide a balance permitting important uses of health information, while protecting the privacy of individuals seeking care. The privacy rule is designed to be flexible and comprehensive addressing the wide variety of diverse services and disclosures of information within our healthcare delivery system.

A common question or lack of realization is – what is protected health information? As indicated from the DHHS and Office for Civil Rights:

Protected Health Information:

The Privacy Rule protects all "*individually identifiable health information*" held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper, or oral. The Privacy Rule calls this information "*protected health information (PHI)*."

OCR Privacy Rule Summary 4 Last Revised 05/03.

“Individually identifiable health information”:

Information, including demographic data that relates to:

- the individual's past, present or future physical or mental health or condition,
- the provision of health care to the individual, or
- the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual,

and that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe

can be used to identify the individual. Individually identifiable health information

includes many common identifiers (e.g., name, address, birth date, Social Security Number).

The Privacy Rule excludes from protected health information employment records that a covered entity maintains in its capacity as an employer and education and certain other records subject to, or defined in, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g.

Of course this is only an exurb about HIPAA and the Final Rule. More detailed information can be found on <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/summary/privacysummary.pdf>.

Remember – HIPAA has multiple, multiple components – **HIPAA 5010 for ICD-10** preparation is one of them.

I hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the month!

“Nothing great was every achieved without enthusiasm.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Electronic Health Records Benefits

Submitted by Cristy Marshall

Electronic Health Records can help in a disaster, as St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Missouri learned recently after a devastating tornado destroyed the building. Just a few weeks before the tornado, St. John's and its physician practices began using an EHR system that was the same as other Mercy hospitals, its parent organization. Access to EHR helped Mercy get St. John's back online quickly and helped patients who were transferred after the storm.

One transferred patient said he knew doctors would want to know about his medications, dosages and tests, but he couldn't remember all of them. With EHR, the doctors at the hospital to which he was transferred were able to pull up his records with ease. EHR also helped St. John's set up a 60-bed mobile hospital less than one week after the tornado, providing continuity of care.



Upcoming Meeting

October 19th Sherra Scott
Getting the Most Out of Social Media

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month
at the Lexington Medical Center Auditorium.

To RSVP or any questions please contact Jessica Seel at
jessicaturner@sc.rr.com or 803-622-6370

Meeting sponsorships for 2011 are still available.
If you are interested in sponsoring a meeting
please contact Trey Hoey at thoey@bellsouth.net

Mark Your Calendar



“ICD-10 –Where to Begin?” December 2, 2011
Lexington Medical Center Auditorium

****Contact Jessica Seel at jessicaturner@sc.rr.com for more information.**

Food for Thought

Autumn Fruit Cake

2 c. sugar

5 eggs

1 can of coconut (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.)

1 tsp. baking powder

2 sticks of butter

1 c. chopped pecans

1 c. crushed pineapple

1 lb. graham crackers

Drain pineapple and crush graham crackers. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add all other ingredients. Mix well. Bake in a tube pan at 325 for 1 hour and 10 minutes.



*“Leaders are people who do the right thing;
managers are people who do things right.”*

- Warren G. Bennis