

MILLER HEALTH LAW GROUP

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To Our Clients and Friends:

Re: HIPAA COMPLIANCE IS NOW A MUST

As you may be aware, HIPAA compliance is now unavoidable, and key compliance deadlines are very near. Two federal court lawsuits that sought to invalidate the Department of Health and Human Services' ("HHS") privacy regulations under HIPAA have been dismissed and modifications to the privacy regulations proposed by the Bush administration have become final.

Under the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act, non-exempt physicians, suppliers and facilities must file their Medicare claims electronically in a standard format by October 16, 2002, unless an extension is obtained by filing a compliance plan with HHS by October 15, 2002. Entities that are covered under the HHS privacy regulations must be in compliance by April 14, 2003.

In order to assist our clients with HIPAA compliance, we are pleased to inform you that Mark J. Dicks, Ph.D., J.D., has recently joined our legal team. Mark, who has over fifteen years of experience in health care law since receiving his J.D. from UCLA, is a recognized authority and frequent speaker on HIPAA compliance. Over the past two years, Mark has been assisting health care providers and other entities in their HIPAA compliance efforts.

Mark is available to assist our clients in the following key areas: (1) initial assessments of covered organizational functions; (2) operations under the security and privacy standards; (3) contracting under the privacy standards; and (4) workforce awareness training. Mark also will review our clients' "in house" compliance efforts to ensure that they are on track.

If you have any questions regarding the HIPAA standards for electronic transactions, security or privacy, the October 15, 2002 deadline, or would like to discuss your HIPAA compliance efforts, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

MILLER HEALTH LAW GROUP,
A Professional Law Corporation

JEREMY N. MILLER