

HIPAA Hints

Get to Know the UAMS HIPAA Team!

As UAMS employees, you regularly hear about HIPAA and the importance of protecting our patients' health information. You may even hear from a member of the HIPAA Office during an audit related to possibly inappropriate access to a medical record or an investigation that may involve a HIPAA violation.

We educate about scary topics such as breaches, monetary fines, civil and criminal penalties, and the Office for Civil Rights – the federal agency that enforces HIPAA.

HIPAA is a federal law, and it is important that we work together to show that we care about the privacy of our patients' health information. *Don't forget that our 2016 Annual Update is online now, and all employees, faculty, staff and students hired or enrolled before July 1, 2016 must complete it by October 1, 2016.*

The members of the HIPAA Office work hard every day, just like you. We are real people, with real lives, just like you, striving for excellence. For fun, we would like to share some fun facts about the members of our team!



ANITA WESTBROOK

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I serve as a Privacy Officer working primarily with patients and staff in our Integrated Clinical Enterprise

(ICE) to help ensure compliance with the HIPAA Privacy rules.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

As a patient, HIPAA is important to me because it provides guidelines for protecting the privacy and security of my information. It also gives me the right to have access to my medical records and request amendments if I believe there are mistakes in my record.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy being a grandmother and traveling.

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I was the first person hired at UAMS to work with the new HIPAA rules and have been "living" HIPAA since 2001!



BILL DOBBINS

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

Database rock god and auditor

Why is HIPAA important to you?

Our patients are the reason we come to work every day and I believe protecting their privacy from prying eyes or hacking from outside is an important part of UAMS' mission.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Running, whether it be on road or trails, and I also love to cook.

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I shook hands with Mother Teresa of Calcutta when she visited Arkansas in the early 80's.



BRITTANY PARKER

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I am the HIPAA Office Manager/ Education Coordinator. I coordinate training, inservices,

privacy issues and concerns, and keep the office in line and running smoothly.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

HIPAA is important to me because everyone deserves a right to privacy and we can be a voice for those who can't always be a voice for themselves.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy spending time with my husband, daughter and two little boys. They keep me busy but are so much fun!

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I played a role in a movie when I was 5 years old!



HEATHER SCHMIEGELOW

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I am the HIPAA Campus Coordinator/Privacy Officer

HIPAA Staff

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and report to Bob Bishop, the Vice Chancellor of Institutional Compliance. I oversee the HIPAA program at UAMS and ensure the organization is in compliance with the HIPAA rules and regulations that are intended to protect the privacy and security of patient information.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

HIPAA is important because I am a patient at UAMS and I want the comfort of knowing my patient information is used and accessed for permissible and appropriate purposes. I want all UAMS patients to have the comfort of knowing the privacy of their patient information is important. It is important that UAMS comply with HIPAA so it is not subject to any monetary penalty imposed by the Office of Civil Rights. Such a penalty could be in the millions and would negatively impact funds available that serve the mission of UAMS to improve the health, health care and well-being of Arkansans and of others in the region, nation and the world. It would also adversely affect funding that supports education, research and clinical programs at UAMS.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I love running and enjoy being a member of a book club and love to be on any sort of boat – a canoe, kayak, party barge, ski boat, or sail boat.

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I have driven a Formula Skip Barber open wheel single-seater race car at the NOLA Motorsports Park in New Orleans, LA.



JOSH BLACK

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I serve as the Assistant HIPAA Security Officer. HIPAA Security focuses on safeguarding electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI). My responsibility is to ensure our organization (covered entity) and the vendors (business associates) with which we do business have proper security controls in place to safeguard our patients' ePHI.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

People want to know their personal information is protected. HIPAA is the hand that forces this protection in the healthcare industry.

What are your favorite hobbies?

Call me boring, but I love nothing more than relaxing on my patio at home while watching a movie with my family.

Fun or unusual fact about you?

Not sure it's fun, but it's definitely unusual. I wake up most days around 3:30 a.m. to exercise. I'll either take off for a six-mile jog or go hit the weights in the gym. On a more fun note, I love to play corn hole and smoke a cigar on occasion.



SARA AYERS

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I serve as Compliance Manager and Privacy Officer for Regional Programs. My role includes investigating potential breaches and conducting audits. I also provide education and assistance to employees concerning various HIPAA topics.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

HIPAA provides a way for me to help patients with an issue that is very important to them.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I love to read, swim and sing. I also love spending time with friends and family, especially my new husband.

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I have four dogs: Abigail, Archibald, Josey and Nala.



STEVE COCHRAN

What is your role in the HIPAA office?

I am the HIPAA Security Officer, responsible for insuring the HIPAA security standards are met, in order to protect the privacy and integrity of patient information.

Why is HIPAA important to you?

The principles behind HIPAA are to protect the privacy of our patients and to make sure they have access to accurate personal health information. I feel that it is imperative to all of us and our families that we have this accurate health information in order to make the proper decisions that will lead to healthy and meaningful lives.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I like boating, hiking, golfing, swimming, a good board game, reading, and some might say I am a computer nerd.

Are there any fun or unusual fact about you?

I have been "hung by the straps" in a Red Barron plane, and have been to every state in the continental U.S.