HIPAA Hints

HIPAA Policy Desk Reference Updated

HIPAA is the law, and protecting the privacy and confidentiality of our patient's personal health information is one of the many ways to show them we care. UAMS employees and students are trained on HIPAA policy from the time they first walk through the doors, and each year thereafter, so you already know that following HIPAA standards is important. However, the task of following HIPAA policies in your daily work may seem daunting. You may wish someone could provide you with a more general overview of each policy. Well, your wish is our command!

The UAMS HIPAA Office recognizes this need and provides the answers, right on our website (**http://hipaa.uams.edu/**)! Please visit the HIPAA Policy Desk Reference at **http://hipaa.uams.edu/Content/**

HIPAAPolicyDeskRefRev072012.pdf to research your HIPAA policy questions and find valuable information about which policy may pertain to your specific needs. A complete copy of each policy is also provided on our website. If you have further questions, please contact us at **HIPAA@uams.edu**, or call **(501) 603-1379**.

Infection Prevention Update

Is Strep Causing That Sore Throat?

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)
http://www.apic.org/For-Consumers/Monthly-alerts-for-consumers/Article?id=is-strep-causing-that-sore-throat

"My throat hurts!" That's not a phrase any parent wants to hear, and their first guess is often strep throat. Here's what you need to know about strep throat and how to prevent it.

What is strep throat?
Strep throat (or Group A Streptococcal pharyngitis) is a common illness in children, but can affect people at any age. It is caused by the Group A *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria and usually starts with a sudden onset of sore throat, pain when swallowing, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, and fever. Also, small red

or white spots can appear at the back of the throat or on the tonsils. Most cases happen in the winter and spring, but strep throat can occur at any time of year.

How does it spread?
The bacteria that cause strep throat are very contagious. Strep throat spreads through mucus droplets when a sick person coughs or sneezes, shares food and drink, or touches other surfaces (like doorknobs and toys) with unwashed hands. The germ can infect you when it comes in contact with your eyes, nose, or mouth.