



# UAMS

## HIPAA HYPE

**"Confidentiality is everyone's job,  
not everyone's business"**

November 2002

One of the most important goals for HIPAA is to restore the public's confidence in the health care system as a whole. Why should we worry about the public's confidence in our ability to care for them? Here is a very public example, and TRUE story:

- A banker received information about several of his clients regarding terminal illnesses. He used that as a basis for calling in their loans

### **A couple of things to think about:**

One out of every five Americans believes their health information is used inappropriately.

One in six Americans report that they provided inaccurate information to a health care provider because they didn't feel it would be kept confidential.

### **Definitions:**

You will see some terms you may not have seen before. Check out this space for explanations of some of these.

*PHI* - Protected Health Information - refers to anything that could identify a patient (name, medical record number, address, etc).

*Minimum Necessary* - this refers to the amount of PHI you need to do your job.

*Covered Entity* - hospitals, insurance companies, doctors' offices, clearinghouses for billing, etc.

*Health Care Operations* - all business conducted by the covered entity relating to treatment of patients and quality assurance at every level.

## HIPAA Myths

Keep an eye on this section for information on how HIPAA may – or may not – affect your work!

**Myth # 1** – We can't fax patient information any longer.

**Fact** – Policies are being worked on which will help us know how to securely fax patient information. The work process will not slow down.

**Myth # 2** – My doctor's office can't call in prescriptions to my pharmacy any more.

**Fact** – This common practice will still be allowed. You will still be able to send someone to the pharmacy to pick up your medications if you are unable to go yourself.

**Myth # 3** – My doctor won't be able to see my whole chart because of this "minimum necessary" rule.

**Fact** – Minimum necessary does not apply to the doctor providing your treatment. The minimum necessary is to keep people who don't really need to see "everything" from seeing "everything."

**Myth # 4** – HIPAA will prevent us from continuing to provide excellent health education.

**Fact** – Training programs where students learn under supervision are included in the definition of health care operations. Our educational standards will not suffer.

## And now – your chance to win prizes!

All correctly answered forms will be eligible for drawings. Please circle correct answer.

1. What is "PHI" ?
  - a. Promote Healthy Intestines
  - b. Protected Health Information
  - c. Practice Helpful Integrity
2. Our medical school will close because it's not allowed by HIPAA.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. Minimum necessary means:
  - a. Now my doctor will never be able to get my chart.
  - b. The people in the business office will only see as much of my protected health information as they need to do their jobs.
  - c. My chart will be posted on the Internet for everyone to see.

That's it! Thanks for participating! Please complete the information below. Please print clearly! Questions? Call 603-1379!

Name:

Department:

Phone #:

**ONE ENTRY PER UAMS  
EMPLOYEE/STUDENT!**

Drop in UAMS interoffice mail:

**UAMS HIPAA Office**

**#799**

