DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office for Civil Rights

Notice of Addresses for Submission of HIPAA Health Information Privacy Complaints

AGENCY: Office for Civil Rights, HHS.

ACTION: Notification of addresses for submission of HIPAA Health Information Privacy Complaints for violations occurring on or after April 14, 2003.

SUMMARY: This notice sets out the addresses for filing a complaint with the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for non-compliance by a covered entity with the standards for privacy of individually identifiable health information under 45 CFR parts 160 and 164 (the Privacy Rule). The Privacy Rule implements certain provisions of the Administrative Simplification subtitle of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Public Law 104–191. Complaints must be submitted in writing to the Office for Civil Rights at the appropriate address, as described below.


ADDRESSES: See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for the list of addresses for filing complaints.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 45 CFR section 160.306 establishes general provisions for submission of complaints against a covered entity for non-compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule. A person who believes a covered entity is not complying with these requirements may file a complaint with the Secretary. A covered entity is a health plan, health care clearinghouse, and any health care provider who conducts certain health care transactions electronically. Complaints to the Secretary must: (1) Be filed in writing, either on paper or electronically; (2) name the entity that is the subject of the complaint and describe the acts or omissions believed to be in violation of the applicable requirements of part 160 or the applicable standards, requirements, and implementation specifications of subpart E of part 164; and (3) be filed within 180 days of when the complainant knew or should have known that the act or omission complained of occurred, unless this time limit is waived by the Office for Civil Rights for good cause shown.

Complaints to the Secretary may be filed only with respect to alleged violations occurring on or after April 14, 2003.

The Secretary has delegated to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) the authority to receive and investigate complaints as they may relate to the Privacy Rule. See 65 FR 82381 (Dec. 28, 2000). Individuals may file written complaints with OCR by mail, fax or email at the addresses listed below. Individuals may, but are not required to, use OCR’s Health Information Privacy Complaint Form. To obtain a copy of this form, or for more information about the Privacy Rule or how to file a complaint with OCR, contact any OCR office or go to www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/. For more information on what entities are covered by HIPAA, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaasupport/tools/decisionsupport/default.asp.

As listed below, health information privacy complaints to the Secretary should be addressed to the OCR regional office that is responsible for matters relating to the Privacy Rule arising in the State or jurisdiction where the covered entity is located. Complaints may also be filed via email at the address noted below.

Where To File Complaints Concerning Health Information Privacy

For complaints involving covered entities located in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont:


For complaints involving covered entities located in New York, New York, Puerto Rico, or Virgin Islands:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, or Wisconsin:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, or Texas:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, or Nebraska:


For complaints involving covered entities located in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, or Wyoming:


For complaints involving covered entities located in American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, or Nevada:

Region IX, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 50 United Nations Plaza—

For complaints involving covered entities located in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington:


For all complaints filed by e-mail send to: OCRComplaint@hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lester Coffer, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, Mail Stop Room 506F, 200 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20201. Telephone number: (202) 205–8725. Fax (206) 615–8303, Voice Phone (206) 615–2287. FAX (206) 615–2297. TDD (206) 615–2296.

Notice: In the interest of security, CMS has instituted stringent procedures for entrance into the building by non-government employees. Persons without a government I.D. will need to show a photo I.D. and sign-in at the security desk upon entering the building.

Notice: This is a public meeting. However, because of fire code requirements, should the number of attendants meet the capacity of the room, the meeting will be closed.

The Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, has been delegated the authority to sign Federal Register notices pertaining to announcements of meetings and other committee management activities, for both CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.


Alvin Hall, Director, Management Analysis and Services Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. 03–6681 Filed 3–19–03; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4153–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Classifications and Public Health Data Standards Staff, Announces the Following Meeting

Name: ICD–9–CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee Meeting.

Time and Date: 9 a.m.—4 p.m., April 3, 2003.

Place: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Auditorium, 7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland.

Status: Open to the public.

Purpose: The ICD–9–CM Coordination and Maintenance (C&M) Committee will hold its first meeting of the 2003 calendar year cycle on Thursday, April 3, 2003. The C&M meeting is a public forum for the presentation of proposed modifications to the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth-Revision, and Clinical Modification.

Matters to be Discussed: Agenda items include: Hepatitis C, acute and unspecified; wound out joint prosthesis; deep vein thrombosis; aftercare following organ transplant; aftercare following abnormal pap smear; encounter for pregnancy test-negative result; allergic dermatitis due to animal dander; endometrial hyperplasia with and without atypia; mechanical complication of esophagostomy; and ICD–10 Procedure Classification System (PCS); Updates on: Bipolar Radiofrequency Ablation; and Blunt Micro-Dissection with Chronic Total Occlusion (CTO) Catheter Laparoscopic/Thorascopic approaches.

Contact Person for Additional Information: Amy Blum, Medical Classification Specialist, Classifications and Public Health Data Standards Staff, NCHS, 3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, telephone 301–458–4106 (diagnosis), Amy Gruber, Health Insurance Specialist, Division of Acute Care, CMS, 7500 Security Blvd., Room C4–07–07, Baltimore, Maryland 21244, telephone 410–786–1542 (procedures).


Richard M. Campanelli, Director, Office for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 03–6651 Filed 3–19–03; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4153–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Meeting

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the following meeting.

Name: Continue Discussions on the Approval of Respiratory Devices Used to Protect Workers in Hazardous Environments.

Times and Dates: 8 a.m.–11:30 a.m., April 10, 2003. 8 a.m.–11:30 a.m., April 24, 2003.

Place: Marriott Key Bridge, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia (April 10); Colorado School of Mines, 1500 Illinois Street, Golden, Colorado (April 24).

Status: These meetings are hosted by NIOSH and will be open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room at each location will accommodate approximately 75 people.


Interested parties should confirm their attendance to either meeting by completing a registration form and forwarding it by e-mail (confserv@netl.doe.gov) or fax (304–285–4459) to the Event Management Office. A registration form may be obtained from the NIOSH Homepage (http://www.cdc.gov/niOSH) by selecting Conferences and then the event.

Requests to make presentations at the public meeting should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513–533–8303, Fax 513–533–8285, E-mail niocindocket@cdc.gov. All requests to present should contain the name, address, telephone number, relevant business affiliations of the presenter, a brief summary of the presentation, and the approximate time requested for the presentation. Oral presentations should be limited to 15 minutes.

After reviewing the requests for presentation, NIOSH will notify each presenter of the approximate time that their presentation is scheduled to begin. If a participant is not present when their presentation is scheduled to begin, the remaining participants will be heard in order. At the conclusion of the meeting, all presentations will be made available to attendees who wish to speak but did not submit a request for the opportunity to make a presentation may be given the opportunity at the conclusion of the meeting, at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Comments on the topics presented in this notice and at the meetings should be mailed to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, M/S C34, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, Telephone 513–533–8303, Fax 513–533–8265. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: