

# National HIPAA Implementation and Compliance Update

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# What We Need to Accomplish in the Next 12 Months

- Submit Compliance Extension Plans
- Complete compliance activities
- Test and implement transactions and code sets

# Problem #1: Awareness

- Many covered entities are still unaware of HIPAA
- CMS focus groups show awareness especially low among:
  - Small providers
  - Rural providers

# Solution: Outreach

- Messages:
  - HIPAA is important to you
  - You need to submit an extension plan by 10/15/02
  - There are resources available to help with compliance
- CMS Regional Offices conducting at least one conference per state by September 30

# Problem #2: Extensions

- Many covered entities still haven't filed for extensions
- CMS has received around 60,000 plans to date, most submitted electronically
- Why so few:
  - “Last Minute Filer” syndrome
  - Concerns about being “held to” plan as submitted
  - Questions about who is/is not a covered entity

# Solution: “Just Do It!”

- Filing does not constitute a legal admission of covered entity status
- Plans are “best estimates” , and are not binding
- Electronic filing is fast and easy (and free)

# Problem #3: Interoperability

- Slight variations in how the transaction standard specifications are interpreted can prevent trading partners from being able to process each others' transactions
- Subtleties may be difficult to identify
- Need for agreement on correct interpretation
- In significant volume, could be overwhelming

# Solution: Testing

- Start testing with trading partners ASAP...this is how problems are identified
- WEDI/SNIP and its regional affiliates have a key role to play:
  - Identifying common interoperability issues
  - Developing and communicating solutions
- Certification services and SDOs also have a role



# CMS Focus on Outreach: Next 12 Months

- Focus shifts from awareness to assistance
- Develop and disseminate implementation white papers, technical assistance materials (such as compliance checklists)
- Extensive partnering with other organizations to distribute these materials more widely
- Regional Offices will continue local outreach efforts

# Also on the Drawing Board:

- Regional conferences for vendors, to share best practices, etc.
- Pilot testing a “HIPAA How-to” training program targeted to small providers
- Significant Website improvements

# Conclusions:

- October 16, 2003 will be here before we know it!
- So will the target testing date of April 2003
- Need to communicate and work cooperatively have never been greater

# Important Web Sites

- CMS HIPAA Website
  - [www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/hipaa)
- Implementation Guides
  - [www.wpc-edi.com/hipaa](http://www.wpc-edi.com/hipaa)
- Implementation - SNIP at WEDI
  - [www.wedi.org](http://www.wedi.org)
- Standards Change Requests
  - [www.hipaa-dsmo.org](http://www.hipaa-dsmo.org)
- DHHS Administrative Simplification -
  - [aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp](http://aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp)