SUPPLEMENTAL HANDOUT; HIPAA RESOURCES
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Decide what you want from a HIPAA site.
Feature articles? Then try a publication site or an online newsletter like
http://www.healthdatamanagement.com
Rules, regulations and government documents? Find a good link site like the one listed below
News briefs? Try a general site like Hipaadvisory.com (http://www.hipaadvisory.com) or HIPAAPro
(http://www.himinfo.com/hipaa)
E-mail newsletter? Look for one targeted to your needs--training and regulations.
Consultant directory? This is a common feature on many sites, but beware of those with paid listings.

Be able to differentiate between information and educational sites and those that are simply trying to sell
consulting services. HIPAAComplete (http://www.hipaacomplete.com) looks like an information site. They
have some forums. But you can to contact the company to access its self-assessment. Basically, they are
promoting their process, products and services.

Be aware that many sites have ulterior motives. Some are trying to sell consulting services, while others are
selling HIPAA products, newsletters, books, audioconferences, videos, and increasingly online learning.
The sites will be understandably biased toward their product offerings. Magazines, newsletters, or journals
might provide reviews of these offerings.

On the other hand, realize that not all corporate or for-profit sites are alike. Law firms such as Davis
Wright Tremaine (http://www.dwt.com/practc/hc_ecom/hc_ecom.cfm) offer analysis and commentary on
the privacy and security rule, weekly news summaries, and e-mail notifications. Also offered in a sample
business associate contracts, and a HIPAA resource center. that has articles, links, checklists, and
presentations.

1. Accuracy of Web Documents
- Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her?
- What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced?
- Is this person qualified to write this document?

Accuracy
- Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number.
- Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.

2. Authority of Web Documents
- Who published the document and is it separate from the "Webmaster?"
- Check the domain of the document, what institution publishes this document?
- Does the publisher list his or her qualifications?

Authority
- What credentials are listed for the authors)?
- Where is the document published? Check URL domain.

3. Objectivity of Web Documents
- What goals/objectives does this page meet?
- How detailed is the information?
- What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author?

Objectivity
- Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so information might be biased.

- View any Web page as you would an infommercial on television. Ask yourself why was this written and for whom?

4. Currency of Web Documents
- When was it produced?
- When was it updated'
- How up-to-date are the links (if any)?

Currency
- How many dead links are on the page?
- Are the links current or updated regularly?
- Is the information on the page outdated?

5. Coverage of the Web Documents
- Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents' theme?
- Is it all images or a balance of text and images?
- Is the information presented cited correctly?

Coverage
- If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software?
- Is it free or is there a fee, to obtain the information?
- Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?

Putting it all together
- **Accuracy.** If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her and . . .
- **Authority.** If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and, . .
- **Objectivity.** If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . .
- **Currency.** If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . .
- **Coverage.** If you can view the information properly--not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . .

Find a good list of links.
HIPAA.org
http://www.org

This site is useful in that it separates resources according to topic: the law and DHHS, identifiers, transactions, enforcement, security, privacy , code sets, industry collaboration, and other resources. Especially useful are the listservs, lists of frequently asked questions, and readiness checklists. This is a good one-stop shopping site if you want to access basic documents and learn about the major players. For example, many people are interested in compliance testing and certification, so there's information here on Claredi, as well as a white paper on transaction compliance and certification.

Find a favorite stomping ground.
HIPAAdvisory
http://www.hipaadvisory.com

Many people choose this site because it offers a little bit of everything: news, regulations, technology, views, products and services, e-mail newsletters, and a wonderful HIPAA primer. The same is true of mailing lists. Try out a couple at a time; see if you like them, and then become a permanent subsc

Keep up with what's news, and review new sites.

If you get an e-newsletter from any of the sites, you'll probably learn about new sites. Early in March, 2003, 22 payers published HIPAA transactions testing and implementation schedules on the WEDI site (http://www.wedi.org/snip/caqhimtools). The site was developed by the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare and the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange. Included is a best practices companion guide for payers so providers know what changes payers are making with transactions sets. In the same way, the HIPAA Conformance Certification Organization (http://www.hcco.us is developing the common compliance assessment program with vendors of HIPAA transaction compliance software. And, oif Course, URAC has issued a draft set of security and privacy accreditation standards. URAC is developing third-party accreditation programs to make sure that providers and payers are complying with privacy and security issues. Meanwhile, you can find notices of future efforts like the letter of intent signed by the National Committee on Quality Assurance and the Joint Commission to consider the developing of a privacy certification program for business associates. You can find news in popular magazines, Web sites such as Modern Healthcare (http://www.modernhealthcare.com), and Health Leaders (http://www.healthleaders), and the source of many press releases, PR Newswire (http://www.prnewswire.com), and Business Wire (http://www.businesswire.com).

Look to the leaders, and to your constituency for guidance on specific issues.
HIPAA Project-Stanford
http://www.med.stanford.edu/HIPAA/

Th regulations provide privacy protections for the health information of patients and research subjects. As an academic medical center, Stanford University School of Medicine is implementing changes to address the management of health data in research, education and clinical care. The site also offers training, a large set of definitions, and information on the relationship between HIPAA and existing research protocols. It also offers information on HIPAA and the institutional review board, including the Stanford Program for the Protection of Human Projects. The good news is that academic medical centers can keep up with Guidelines for Academic Medical Centers on Privacy and Security (http://www.aamc.org/members/gir/gasp/s). Included are AAMC's guidelines on the guidelines, which cover both security and privacy, as well as general policy and management guidelines. Included are acronyms, definitions of terms, references, and sample contracts and policies. Complete downloadable documents are also available. AHA (http://www.hospitalconnect.com/aha/key_issues/hipaa/)offers an excellent resource for hospitals, while the American Association of Health Plans offers guidance for health plans.

Look for creative training options.
 You can find education through a blend of audio conferences, live conferences, and online learning. Train for HIPAA (http://www.trainfohipaa.com) offers a curriculum that includes as Basic Curriculum, (The Basics of Healthcare Privacy, Data Security and HIPAA, Advanced Privacy of Health Information Training I: Confidentiality, Advanced Privacy of Health Information Training II: Patient Rights and Administrative Requirements, Advanced Health Information Security Training; Role-based Training Courses (HIPAA Privacy and Security Training for the Hospital Medical Staff , HIPAA Privacy and Security Training for the Patient-Care Workforce, HIPAA Privacy and Security Training for Registration and Admitting Staff, HIPAA Privacy and Security Training for the Clinical Support Staff; Advanced Training Modules (Advanced HIPAA Business Associate Relationships, Advanced HIPAA Medical Research Compliance, Advanced HIPAA Compliance for Employers, Advanced HIPAA Compliance for Health Plans), and a HIPAA Policies and Procedures Implementation Course

In evaluating any program, you have to ask:

1. Can it be customized for the organization? Is it flexible to accommodate changes in regulations?
2. Is it appropriate to the needs of the audience? Can it be adapted to various educational levels?
3. Can it be easily administered? Does the organization feel in control of the product?
4. How well is individual and group learning tracked?
5. What kinds of reports does management get? Are these reports accurate, complete and easy to read?
6. How easily can content be reviewed, changed, or edited by multiple contributors?
7. How easily can content be added? Is it possible to add new sections or modules?

8. Can the look, design, and feel of the program be changed to complement the sponsoring organization?
9. Are students adequately tested on what they've learned?
10. Does the learning make a difference in staff performance? How do you know?
11. Does the program deliver an adequate return on investment?
12. How does the program compare to others in the field?
13. How does it compare to traditional methods of learning the same type of information?
14. How likely are staff members to accept e-learning? What can be done to increase their level of acceptance?

Look for state solutions .

HIPAAgives. (http://www.hipaagives.org) offers a forum for collaboration on state projects What it offers are a variety of links to state and local health departments, and special HIPAA projects. One of these collaboratives, as they're called, Is HIPAAcow.org (http://www.hipaacow.org), . Other resources from Massachusetts and Vermont can be found on the AMA's HIPAA page.

Don't forget consumers.

Sites such as Healthinsuranceinfo,net and Insure.com provide good basic information on how to secure and maintain health insurance. Also helpful are sites that explain healthcare privacy from a consumer's point of view.