



Compliance Newsletter

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Compliance Hotline

Type: <http://157.21.29.163/Compliance/>
and click on Hotline. EVMS Health Services Compliance concerns may also be sent to the EVMS Health Services Compliance Office via phone, mail or e-mail.

Contact Us

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Medical Identity Theft

Medical identity theft occurs when an individual's personal information is used by another to obtain or receive payment for medical treatment, services or goods. Although usually occurring without the individual's knowledge or consent, in some cases the individual may have allowed the use.

Use of another's personal information may result in medical as well as financial consequences. Financial consequences include expenses to those whose identities are stolen and expenses to the health care system in general. A patient's insurance benefits may be exhausted and his/her credit rating damaged before it is known that he or she is a victim. Coverage may be denied because of pre-existing conditions the individual does not have.

Medical consequences include loss of accuracy of medical records and compromised patient care if inaccurate health records are relied on by the provider of service. The erroneous data from the health record may also be used for research and public health activities.

Offices must have procedures in place to verify the identities of patients before they are seen and before information is entered into the record. If it is found that information has been entered in the wrong patient record it must be immediately corrected. If the incorrect information has been released, for example to another provider, facility or insurance carrier, notification must be made to all who received the incorrect information. The patient must also be notified of the error.

Student Documentation

Any contribution and participation of a student to the performance of a billable service must be performed in the physical presence of a teaching physician (attending).

The documentation of an evaluation and management service (E/M) by a student that may be referred to by the teaching physician is limited to documentation related to the review of systems (ROS) and past, family and social history (PFSH).

The teaching physician may not refer to a student's documentation of physical exam findings or medical decision making to substantiate a charge. If the medical student documents E/M services, the teaching physician must verify and re-document the history of present illness ("HPI"), as well as perform and re-document the physical exam and medical decision-making activities of the service.

This also applies to documentation by other types of students, e.g., physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

Compliance Discussion Group for April 2010

Topic: Release of Information: The Process

Dates: Tuesday, April 20

Location: Hofheimer Hall Room 753

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

RSVP by email or phone to Leanne Smith (451-6207).

Bring your lunch!