

HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability
and Accountability Act
of 1996



New Patient Rights Are On The Way



- **HIPAA**
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
 - Federal Privacy Regulations (April 2003)
 - Established patient rights to privacy of their health information



**Protecting Patient Privacy –
It's Everyone's Responsibility**

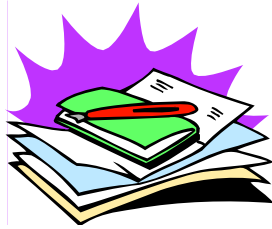
Patients are Concerned:



- Did you know...
 - 77% of Americans feel that privacy of their personal health information is very important, and
 - 84% said they were very concerned or somewhat concerned that personal health information might be made available to others without their consent.
 - Only 7% said they are willing to store or transmit personal health information on the Internet.

What Do Patient Do When They Don't Trust Us?

- Do not obtain treatment
- Give incomplete or inaccurate information
- Pay out of pocket to prevent an insurance claim
- Move from one physician to another
- Ask the doctor not to document their actual condition



Your Responsibilities



- Curb Human Nature
 - Curiosity
 - Sharing
- Be Sensitive
- Respect the patient's right to privacy
- Know your organization's policies

Right to Request Restrictions

- The applicant has the right to request an organization to restrict the use and disclosure (release) of their confidential information.

Right to File a Complaint



- The applicant has the right to file a complaint if they believe privacy rights were violated
 - Individual within the organization

Right to Receive Notice

- The applicant has the right to receive a Notice of Privacy Practices
 - Notice describes
 - . How personal information is used and disclosed by an institution
 - . How to access & obtain copy of their personal records
 - . How to file a complaint and who to contact

There are Penalties

- Both Criminal and Civil Penalties
 - Failure to comply with HIPAA requirements
 - Knowingly or wrongfully disclose or receive individually identifiable health information
 - Obtaining information under false pretenses
 - Obtaining information with intent to:
 - . Sell or transfer
 - . Use for commercial advantage
 - . Use for personal gain
 - . Use for malicious harm



Doing Your Part

- Only access confidential information if you have a **need to know** to do your job
- Protect your computer passwords
- Understand the law and your organization's policies
- Attend training and education programs
- Report problems
- Treat your patient's information the way you would want your personal information treated