



# Compliance Quarterly

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2007

## Upcoming

### Education Sessions

#### AHIMA Audio Seminars

- April 10
- April 12
- April 17
- April 19
- April 26
- May 3
- May 10
- May 15
- May 17
- June 14

#### Physician Documentation Workshops

- April 18
- May 17
- June 29

Visit our website at: [compliance.bsd.uchicago.edu](http://compliance.bsd.uchicago.edu) for more information or to register for these events.

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## A Message from the Chief Compliance, Privacy, and Security Officer

As you know, health care delivery and hospital operations have become very complex. The **Health Care Integrity Program** at the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) is a compliance program that is designed to underscore a commitment to implement processes to help ensure adherence to all laws and regulations pertaining to the delivery and billing of health care services. Similarly, the **HIPAA Program** is intended to facilitate observance of regulations related to the privacy and security of our patients' protected health information. Both programs are dedicated to providing resources and

guide the decisions you make on a daily basis.

As an employee of UCMC, it is your responsibility to report any possible non-compliant activity. You should always contact your manager or administrator if you become aware of anything that causes you to feel uneasy. The **Office of Medical Center Compliance** (OMCC) also has a Compliance Resource Line, or hotline, as a resource to you for reporting possible compliance problems. It is available 24/7, confidential, and toll-free. There are non-retaliation/non-retribution policies in place that protect you for reporting in good faith. These

taken very seriously and provide the Medical Center the opportunity to prevent, detect, and correct our own problems.

Thank you for your continued role in helping the University of Chicago Medical Center provide not only excellent patient care; but also importantly, accurate patient billing, and protection of patient information.

Sincerely,

**Kerry Congdon DeMott**  
*Chief Compliance, Privacy, and Security Officer*

## Deficit Reduction Act: What you need to know

In 2005, President Bush signed the Deficit Reduction Act (DRA). The law became effective January 1, 2007 and is expected to slow the pace of Medicare and Medicaid spending. Under the DRA, health care providers or suppliers who violate the False Claims Act (FCA) can be subject to civil monetary penalties and be required to pay three times the amount

of damages sustained by the U.S. government. Providers may also be prosecuted for a wide variety of conduct that leads to the submission of fraudulent governmental claims such as falsifying records, double-billing for services, or submitting bills for services never performed. In addition, to encourage individuals to come forward and report misconduct in-

volving false claims, the FCA includes a whistleblower provision.

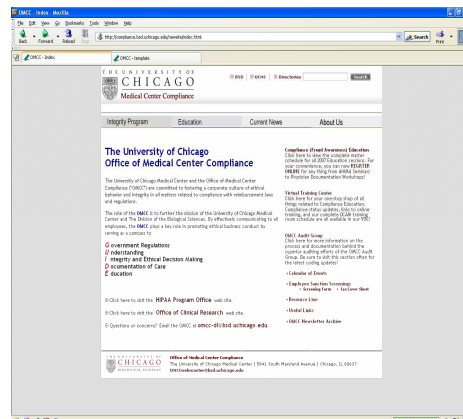
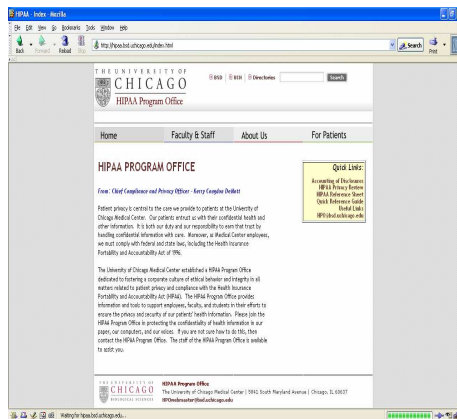
If you think you have witnessed a violation, the Office of Medical Center Compliance is here to guide you. For more information and complete text of the law go visit our website:

[compliance.bsd.uchicago.edu](http://compliance.bsd.uchicago.edu)

# Check Out the New HIPAA and OMCC Websites

**H**ave you ever found yourself in a situation and wonder, hmmm... does HIPAA allow me to do that? Or, where can I find current Compliance/Fraud Awareness information? Both the **HIPAA Program Office (HPO)** and the **Office of Medical Center Compliance (OMCC)** are here to serve as a resource to the University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) and its patients. They do this by providing information and tools to support employees, faculty, and students in their efforts to ensure that billing compliance is maintained and that the privacy and security of our patients' health information is not compromised.

To that end, the **HPO** and the **OMCC** are pleased to announce



**NEW** and **IMPROVED** websites at:

<http://hipaa.bsd.uchicago.edu>  
<http://compliance.bsd.uchicago.edu>

Please bookmark the website addresses in your "favorites" for quick access to helpful information. We will be adding information on a

regular basis, so check back often.

And, thank you for your continued commitment to protecting our patients' privacy and security, maintaining accurate patient billing, and observance of other health care compliance laws.

## OFFICE OF MEDICAL CENTER COMPLIANCE (OMCC) HIPAA PROGRAM OFFICE (HPO)

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**We work for you!**