

Health Information Compliance Alert

Health Information News CA PROVIDERS GET LEG UP ON HIPAA COMPLIANCE

HIPAA compliance efforts in the Golden State just got a big boost from the California Healthcare Foundation.

The CHCF is now offering a guide, titled "Implementing the Federal Health Privacy Rule in California," designed to help covered entities understand HIPAA's privacy requirements. The guide, authored by Joy Pitts of the Health Privacy Project at Georgetown University's Institute for Health Care Research and Policy, comes in three versions: one for providers; another for insurers; and a third for pharmacists, physical therapists and others.

The guide compares the new federal privacy requirements with the state's existing privacy rules and identifies ways for covered entities to comply with both.

- Thanks to a flawed survey, 1,200 recipients of kidney transplants in Minnesota learned who their donors were.

A University of Minnesota database used to generate survey letters contained information about the kidney recipients and also contained the names of donors.

Calling the database "a breach just waiting to happen," Twila Brase, president of the Minnesota Citizens' Health Care Council, said there was no reason for the donors' names to be stored with the recipients.

The University has removed donor names from the database.