

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES FOR 2007
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEDICAL CENTER AT CHICAGO TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2007 was an active year for the Medical Center. This Report breaks the compliance activities into three major categories:

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): Title II of HIPAA, the Administrative Simplification (AS) provisions, requires the establishment of national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health insurance plans, and employers. This requires health providers to keep confidential the information generated for the care of patients, including specific requirements for electronic security. The Medical Center underwent a review by the Office of the Auditor General for the State of Illinois and was found to be fully compliant with the standards. However, this audit, as well as one by University Audits, identified issues in the Health Science Colleges related especially to deficiencies with computer security. The Health Science Colleges brought in the Foster Group, an outside consultant, to begin corrective action. The Health Science Colleges have begun to work as a coordinated group to assure the highest standards for protection of health information in both the research and clinical environments.

Financial Initiatives:

Two major initiatives were undertaken.

1. Programs to monitor physician documentation practices were expanded. Incentives for improved physician documentation practices have now been linked to departmental malpractice premiums by action of the Medical Service Plan Executive Committee.
2. Representatives of the Ambulatory Administration, Hospital Finance and the Medical Service Plan are coordinating a compliance program to assure appropriate billing practices in the ambulatory arena. This will assure full compliance with the federal audit program known as PATH (Physician at Teaching Hospitals).

The Medical Center underwent a routine audit by the Illinois Department of Health and Family Service. Deficiencies were identified which have been corrected.

Regulation of Care

A number of issues were identified and corrected this year. Criminal background checks, and checks of Medicare sanction lists were performed for all Medical Center employees and a system put in place to assure such checks on all potential employees. The Illinois Department of Health and Family Services and the Joint Commission investigated three anonymous complaints and found no substantiation for the complaints.

Three programs were surveyed by regulatory bodies. The Joint Commission recertified our Stroke Center, the IDHFS surveyed and recertified our Perinatal Center, and the College of American Pathologists surveyed and re-certified our Laboratory Medicine program.