

Board Meeting
March 23, 2011

Report to the Board on the HIPAA Covered Entity

The Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 assures the privacy and security of health information. The Privacy Rule protects the privacy of individually identifiable health information while the Security Rule sets national standards for the security of electronic protected health information. Additionally it establishes confidentiality provisions of the Patient Safety Rule which protect identifiable information being used to analyze patient safety events and improve patient safety.

Under the Act, the institution must from time to time identify the components of its organizations which become part of the 'covered entity'. Within the covered entity, patient information may pass freely back and forth between units for the purpose of caring for the patient. The covered entity has several responsibilities under the law, including but not limited to:

- The protection and privacy of the patient's health care information, including the discipline of employees who knowingly violate the law.
- The education of its employees to national privacy standards. Privacy rules extend to paper as well as electronically stored information.
- The maintenance of a secure electronic environment.
- The investigation and reporting of breeches of the law to federal authorities.
- The reporting of breeches to the affected patient

The Chief Compliance Officer, in conjunction with the Deans of the Health Science Colleges and the Provost of the UIC campus has identified the following Units within the University as constituting our covered entity:

- The Medical Center
- The College of Applied Health
- The College of Dentistry
- The College of Medicine
- The College of Nursing
- The College of Pharmacy
- The School of Public Health

This item is for information and, as noted, requires no action on the part of the Board.