

Letter from the CEO

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Conference options?

Make sure it is HCCA.

It seems that every day a new conference is announced dealing with HIPAA privacy or other health care compliance topics. In the past, the Health Care Compliance Association (HCCA) has affiliated with other meetings, as well as provided its own programming on a wide variety of topics. It is important to note though that every conference is not an HCCA Conference. Because of this proliferation of HIPAA and other compliance-related conferences I thought I would list the following conferences HCCA currently has on its 2001 agenda:

- Sept. 12-14—Compliance Leadership: Session 1, Sacramento, CA
- Sept. 30-Oct. 2—AHLA/HCCA Fraud and Compliance Forum, Washington, DC
- Oct. 24 - 26—Compliance Leadership: Session 2, Sacramento, CA
- Nov. 11-15—Academy of Health Care Compliance, Dallas, TX
- Nov. 29-30—HCCA Academic and Research Compliance Summit, Anaheim, CA
- Dec. 3-5—HCCA HIPAA Forum, San Diego, CA

HCCA's HIPAA privacy conference, the HIPAA Forum, scheduled for December 3-5, 2001 in San Diego, CA, is co-sponsored by the American Hospital Association. This program, for health care providers of all sizes and all settings, will provide useful tools and information. The HIPAA Forum will feature numerous case studies and operational workshops that go beyond the regulatory updates and legal interpretation offered in many of the conferences currently available.

Sessions will be delivered by your fellow compliance professionals and will focus on your expressed needs. The HCCA HIPAA Document Resource Library will be issued at this meeting, sharing over 300 pages of documents, policies, procedures, and tools prepared and used by compliance professionals across the nation. In addition, HCCA survey information on the state of HIPAA compliance will be reported at the HCCA HIPAA Forum and will provide important benchmark information for you to use as a dashboard for your HIPAA compliance efforts. The HIPAA Forum is

priced at \$799 - \$699 for HCCA Members—this conference is a bargain compared to many other conferences currently advertised. And like all HCCA events, the program is designed with the compliance professional in mind.

If the HCCA logo is printed on the conference brochures you receive, you can be sure it is an HCCA event. We hope you make the same choice as thousands of compliance professionals and choose HCCA programs.

HCCA Focus Group Survey results

In May, 2001, the HCCA conducted three group surveys to learn the answers to the following:

- What three issues do you perceive as having the greatest impact on your duties as a compliance professional over the next 18 months?
- In the coming year, what are the key content areas you will look for when you review programs for your own professional continuing education as a compliance professional?
- Do you or your organization's compliance department have all or part of the responsibilities relating to HIPAA implementation or oversight?

The three groups surveyed consisted of a focus group of five individuals who met via conference call and discussed each others responses; a group of 12 contacted by direct email and responding electronically; and subscribers to *This Week in Corporate Compliance*, which resulted in 87 responses. The overwhelming tone of all comments returned in the open ended answers led to a strong desire for programs, products, and services focusing on operationalizing an issue or trend, rather than analysis of the issue or trend. To that end respondents called for provision of sample forms, policies, procedures, tools, and benchmarking data which they could apply themselves to the issues they identified.

The survey responses were discussed by the HCCA Officers during the May Officers Call. HCCA committees are using the data as they prepare future programs. Thank you for your responses—your answers will help us as we develop programs and services to meet your needs. ■