DHS
Oregon Department
of Human Services

HIPAA Status Update   May 2005

DHS will keep focused on implementing a reasoned, phased approach to HIPAA Transaction and Code Sets compliance. The emphasis will continue to be on alignment and collaboration with the health care industry.

The Department's goals through its transition to HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets compliance are to:
- Work collaboratively with its trading partners;
- Ensure clients are served and that access to health care is maintained; and
- Maintain cash flow to trading partners.

DHS continues to make progress towards HIPAA Transactions & Code Sets compliance
- DHS is processing and paying claims submitted in the HIPAA-compliant format for more than 95% of our fee-for-service providers.
- DHS has tested, or is actively testing with, approximately 98% EDI trading partners.
- DHS has employed a "Contingency Plan" approved by CMS that allows DHS to run dual electronic systems through December 30, 2005.

Recent Budget Developments
- DHS did receive dedicated funding in the 2003-2005 Legislatively Adopted Budget for HIPAA compliance. DHS also received approval from CMS for a 90% match rate for HIPAA compliance activities.
- DHS has one permanent, five limited duration and one temporary position dedicated to EDI Registration and Testing.

- DHS continues to work with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), with priorities including a continued push for State compliance and the importance of compliance by December 30, 2005.

Next Steps
Working together on outstanding issues

DHS is working with the HIPAA Contractor's Task Force to establish better communication channels between the state and the health care industry. The group has asked DHS to provide contact information representing both the DHS business and project office, the reporting structure and how the work is being accomplished within DHS, how the testing process works at DHS including the definition of a pilot and the process DHS will follow to move the transactions into the final phases, and the Department experts for the various transactions. The group also asked DHS to provide a list of Companion Guides, version numbers, Web site location and status. This information is posted on the DHS HIPAA web site at: http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/admin/hipaa/

DHS HIPAA Readiness Reports
DHS created a standardized readiness report that shows various phases and status of transactions, among other statistics.

Establishing clearer communications
DHS will be working to expand its HIPAA Web site to include regular updates and posted information on issues such as those requested through the HIPAA Contractor's Task Force. DHS will use its Provider email updates to alert providers of new information posted to the Web site and where to find it. DHS established an EDI Outreach and Training Plan and unit dedicated to developing EDI education materials and training for internal and external stakeholders. This Plan is available on the DHS HIPAA Web site with a work break down structure identifying goals and percentages of completion.