



SNIP Regional Efforts Group

Overview

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ **Purpose**: Develop and maintain contact lists, start-up information and on-going communications in support of regional implementation efforts and activities.
- ◆ **Scope**: Establish and maintain communication with regional HIPAA implementation efforts and to foster development of regional groups where none currently exist.

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

◆ Responsibilities:

- ◆ Develop a complete list of regional groups dealing with HIPAA implementation
- ◆ Identify contact persons for regional groups working on HIPAA implementation
- ◆ Encourage representation and participation in the SNIP national effort by these groups
- ◆ Publish a listing of regional groups on the SNIP website including contact information for each group (perhaps by means of a map with links to regional groups' websites)



SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ **Responsibilities:** (cont.)
 - ◆ Determine areas lacking regional groups and encouraging the formation of regional groups in these areas
 - ◆ Develop a resource list for those interested in forming a regional implementation group
 - ◆ Solicit and post on the SNIP website content materials from regional groups in order to assist groups seeking to establish regional efforts

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ **Responsibilities:** (cont.)
 - ◆ Create via the SNIP website a communication channel with regional groups to share SNIP issues and seek regional input and consensus in regard to issues and solutions
 - ◆ Develop a consistent message to assist those speaking about regional efforts on behalf of SNIP

SNIP Regional HIPAA Efforts Group

◆ Process:

- ◆ Identify and document regional efforts
- ◆ Use SNIP web site as information channel
- ◆ Invite organizations to participate in information sharing 'meetings' (via listservs, teleconferences, and other means)
- ◆ Prepare and disseminate information about "How to Start a Regional HIPAA Effort"
- ◆ Document and share experiences of regional efforts in the areas of awareness and education, assessment, planning, testing, and implementation



SNIP Regional Efforts Group

*Key Elements in the
Formation of Regional Efforts*

HIPAA Implementation Issues

- ◆ Health care is a “cottage industry” with multiple standards and vendors
- ◆ Complexity of settings from IDS to private physician practices
- ◆ Shortage of resources (\$’s and human)
- ◆ Competing priorities for resources
- ◆ Implementation will occur locally

Why collaborate?

- ◆ Implementing HIPAA requires coordination and collaboration among trading partners
- ◆ There is no competitive advantage to be 'HIPAA Ready', if your trading partners aren't ready
- ◆ Collaboration and coordination will lead to cost-efficient implementation
- ◆ Avoid the 're-inventing the wheel all over again' syndrome

Why collaborate?

- ◆ Standards are dependant on consistent policies, practices and technology among business associates.
- ◆ Actions of a business associate may generate liabilities for one's own organization.
- ◆ Sloppy planning and inefficient implementation will be costly to everyone.

How to Start a Regional Effort

- ◆ Establish organizing group
- ◆ Define mission and objectives
 - ◆ Education
 - ◆ Planning and Testing
 - ◆ Implementation Coordination
- ◆ Identify and Involve all key constituents:
 - ◆ Providers
 - ◆ Public and Private Payers
 - ◆ Vendors (clearinghouses, practice management vendors, etc.)
 - ◆ Employers
 - ◆ Professional groups

How to Start a Regional Effort

- ◆ Organize into working committees
- ◆ Identify early adopters
- ◆ Prioritize work
 - ◆ Start with simple, initial deliverables (i.e. standard checklists for security and privacy)
- ◆ Coordination, Coordination, Coordination
- ◆ Think Nationally, Act Locally!

Key Elements for Collaborative Environment

- ◆ Trust
- ◆ Commitment
- ◆ Clear Vision

Trust

- ◆ **Joint ownership**
- ◆ **Joint accountability**
- ◆ **No dominant player**
- ◆ **Balanced interests**
- ◆ **No hidden agendas**
- ◆ **Neutral meeting ground**

Commitment

- ◆ Leadership and support from top governmental officials (Governor & Secretary of HHS)
- ◆ Academic medical centers and key hospitals
- ◆ Leading health plans / insurers
- ◆ Professional societies & associations
- ◆ Key vendors

Clear Vision

- ◆ Use HIPAA as an opportunity to re-engineer healthcare to make it more responsive and efficient.
- ◆ Keep the health of the individual as the core objective.
- ◆ Improve delivery and efficiency of healthcare through information technology and secure communications.

Essential Allies & Participants

- ◆ Medical Society
- ◆ Nurses Association
- ◆ Health Information Management Assn.
- ◆ Association of Local Health Directors
- ◆ Hospital Association
- ◆ Association of Pharmacists
- ◆ Long-term Care Association
- ◆ Association of Health Plans
- ◆ Vendors

Initial Steps

- ◆ Leadership commitments from key players (e.g., financial commitments + in-kind support such as human resources, equipment, services, etc.).
- ◆ Government commitment to examine current state laws and regulations and work for appropriate changes.



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Progress Report

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ Creation of the HIPAA Regional Efforts Group under the Education Committee
 - Defined charge, goals, deliverables
- ◆ Initial Identification of Regional Efforts
 - At SNIP Meeting in September, 2000
 - Over 20 States and Regions identified

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ Establishment of a Catalogue of State/ Regional efforts
 - Over 30 efforts now identified
 - Included in SNIP's Web Site
- ◆ Development of Presentation Materials to Assist Local Efforts Get Started

SNIP Regional Efforts Group

- ◆ Provided direct assistance (i.e. speaking engagements, conference calls, etc) in the formation of local efforts:
 - North Dakota
 - New York
 - Montana
 - Missouri
 - Virginia
 - New Mexico

Examples of Regional Efforts

◆ Minnesota:

- ◆ Convener: Minnesota Center for Healthcare Electronic Commerce
- ◆ Structure: multi-organizational public-private collaborative effort established in 1994
- ◆ HIPAA Focus: Education seminars; dissemination of information; working groups looking at transaction implementation, security and privacy.
- ◆ Special projects: Coordinated transaction implementation (CQS); Network Implementation (MedNet); implementation of security systems (HealthKey MN)
- ◆ Website: www.mhdi.org



Examples of Regional Efforts

◆ Massachusetts:

- ◆ Convener: Massachusetts Health Data Consortium, a non-profit organization established in 1978
- ◆ Structure: multi-organizational public-private collaborative effort
- ◆ HIPAA Focus: Education seminars; dissemination of information; working groups looking at transaction implementation, security and privacy.
- ◆ Special projects: Coordinated transaction implementation (NEHEN); implementation of security systems (Secure Messaging Project)
- ◆ Website: www.mahealthdata.org



Examples of Regional Efforts

◆ North Carolina:

- ◆ Convener: NC Healthcare Information & Communications Alliance, a non-profit est. in 1994
- ◆ Structure: multi-organizational public-private collaborative effort
- ◆ HIPAA Focus: Work Groups planning: sequencing of implementation of transactions, codes and data elements; development of security self assessment tools, analysis and publication of most stringent privacy regulations (Federal vs state); development of strategy for network security & interoperability;; and carrying out awareness, education & training workshops
- ◆ Website: www.nchica.org



Examples of Regional Efforts

◆ Utah:

- ◆ Convener: Utah Health Information Network, a non-profit organization established in 1992
- ◆ Structure: multi-organizational public-private collaborative effort
- ◆ HIPAA Focus: Transaction implementation; several working groups looking at each transaction; also working on security
- ◆ Special projects: UHIN operates a centralized secure information clearinghouse for health care transactions; implementation of security systems (HealthKey)
- ◆ Website: www.uhin.com



How You Can Get Involved

- ◆ SNIP web site: www.wedi.org/snip
- ◆ SNIP listserv: snip@wedi.org
- ◆ Questions on SNIP Regional Efforts:
 - Walter Suarez, Minnesota Health Data Institute
walter.suarez@mhdi.org
 - Holt Anderson, North Carolina Health Information and Communication Alliance
holt@nchica.org





HIPAA-Related Resources

- HIPAA Law: <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/admnsimp/pl104191.htm>
- DHHS: <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/admnsimp/>
- National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
<http://www.ncvhs.hhs.gov/>
- HCFA: <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/edi/edi.htm/>
- Health Privacy Project: <http://www.healthprivacy.org/>
- Privacy, Public Health, and Health Research:
<http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/admnsimp/PHR.htm>
- Data Interchange Standards Association (DISA):
<http://www.disa.org>
- Washington Publishing Company: <http://www.wpc-edi.com>
- WEDI: <http://www.wedi.org/>





HIPAA-Related Resources

- National Uniform Claims Committee:
<http://www.nucc.org>
- National Uniform Billing Committee:
<http://www.nubc.org>
- ANSI ASC X12N:
<http://www.x12.org/>
- National Council for Prescription Drug Programs
<http://www.ncpdp.org>
- Health Level Seven (HL7)
<http://www.hl7.org>
- Public Health Data Standards Consortium:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/otheract/phdsc/phdsc.htm>
- American Dental Association
<http://www.ada.org>