
GETTING TO KNOW HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 Public Law 104-191 (HIPAA) was passed by Congress to reform the insurance market and simplify health care administrative processes. The administrative simplification part of HIPAA is aimed at reducing administrative costs and burdens in the health care industry by adopting and requiring the use of standardized, electronic transmission of administrative and financial data.

While HIPAA will have a significant impact on the health care industry over the next several years, it also will affect counties and other governmental entities. This training session is designed to inform county employees at all levels of the basics of HIPAA and how its implementation will affect county operations. Specific topics will include:

- Dealing with protected health information;
- HIPAA and EMS personnel;
- HIPAA and law enforcement personnel;
- HIPAA issues for coroners and medical examiners;
- HIPAA and set-off debt issues; and
- HIPAA and workers' compensation issues.

When: Wednesday, September 10, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Who: This FREE teleconference is open to ALL county officials and employees including department heads, supervisors, and line employees

Where: SCETV studios in Columbia or any site listed on the back

Speakers: Ms. Jeanne Born, Attorney – Nexsen Pruet Jacobs and Pollard, LLC
Dr. Ron Moore, State HIPAA Coordinator – SC HIPAA Office
Ms. Betty Tanner, EMS Office Manager – Darlington County
SCAC Staff Members: Mr. Bill Griggs, Mr. Robert Hemphill, Mr. Clif Scott, and Ms. Melinda Suddes

To Participate in the Teleconference, You Should:

- **Identify a “Coordinator”** to be the official contact for the county. He/she will arrange all of the logistics prior to the teleconference and be on site the day of the event.
- **Contact the nearest satellite viewing site** and arrange equipment, seating, phone access, VCR (to tape for later broadcast), etc.
- **Encourage employee participation.** One way to accomplish this is by announcing the program via an interoffice memo to all department heads from the County Administrator.
- **Complete the attached form** to report the number of employees who will participate from your county and fax it to Timmy Anne Ferguson, (803) 252-0379.
- **Arrive at the satellite viewing site by 8:30 a.m.** and confirm that all equipment is working properly and that the phone line is operating.
- **Identify a “Facilitator”** and encourage participants to call in with questions and/or comments.