



DSRIP NEWS

April 1, 2016

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Email, HIPAA and PHI Security

As an AHI PPS partner, your organization has signed a Business Associates Agreement (BAA) with AHI. A “business associate” is a person/entity that performs functions or activities involving the use or disclosure of protected health information (PHI). HIPAA requires assurance in writing (in the form of a contract) between business associates of their commitment to appropriately safeguard PHI. Such assurances safeguard the PHI obtained, created, or received on behalf of one another in performance of contractual obligations.

The Privacy Rule generally requires covered entities to take reasonable steps to limit use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI) to the minimum necessary to accomplish the intended purpose. Protected health information refers to demographic information, client or patient contact information of any kind, medical history and results, all dates of service or upcoming appointments, insurance information, and other data that a healthcare professional collects to identify an individual and determine appropriate care.

Even though the transmission of PHI in either direction between AHI and your organization is permissible under a signed dual BAA, the transmission **must** be secure to reduce the risk of a breach. As per our dual BAA, **PHI should be transmitted to AHI encrypted and never through regular email.**

Regular email transmits information in an electronic and unprotected form. Once the message is sent, it is communicated over the internet in an unencrypted fashion. If the email were unintentionally sent to the incorrect recipient or intercepted by any other person, the unintended recipient or intervening party would likely be able to read the message.

Files containing PHI should be encrypted and, sent by secure email, using an encryption product such as Zix or Barracuda. Please contact ahicompliance@ahihealth.org, or your organization's Compliance Officer, with questions.

Multi-PPS Saratoga Community Based Organization Town Hall Event Invitation

Please share our DSRIP Town Hall Event Invitation with Community Based Organizations in your region. Three PPSs, including Albany Medical Center Hospital, Alliance for Better Health Care, and AHI PPS will be hosting a DSRIP educational session to discuss how community based organizations and health care providers can work together to better serve the needs of the community.

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2016
Time: 6 – 8 pm
Location: Skidmore College
Gannett Auditorium, Palamountain Hall
815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs

No registration required. For more information, contact Jessica Chanese at jchanese@ahihealth.org.

Workforce Bridges Out of Poverty Training Update

The *Bridges Out of Poverty* training has been receiving positive reviews. There are a few slots left, so please visit [Bridges Out of Poverty Locations and Registration](#) for more information. Please note: the **trainings are offered free of charge to AHI PPS partners only**. Participants outside the AHI PPS are welcome to attend for a fee and subject to availability.

Please contact J.P. Quintal at jquintal@ahihealth.org for more information.

Save the Dates

1. COPD Training

To begin work toward [Project 4.b.ii, Increase Access to High-Quality Chronic Disease Preventative Care and Management in both Clinical and Community Settings](#) a series of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) trainings have been scheduled. The trainings will include an overview of COPD and a review of the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disorder (GOLD) standards. Diagnosis, management, COPD prevention and an introduction to an evidence-based screening tool and spirometry testing will be discussed. This FREE training is presented by Natalie Venon, Clinical Science Consultant.

Save the Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, May 4	12:00 pm -1:00 pm	Alice Hyde Medical Center, Malone
Thursday, May 5	Either 7:30-9AM or 3:30-5PM	UVM Health Network – CVPH, Plattsburgh

Thursday, May 5	12:00 pm -1:00 pm	Elizabethtown Community Hospital
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Registration information will be available next week. For more information, contact Jill Rock at jrock@ahihealth.org.

2. North Country Telemedicine Conference

Save the Date for the 2016 North Country Telemedicine Conference:

Thursday, November 3, 2016
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Crowne Plaza Resort, Lake Placid, NY

The North Country Telemedicine Collaboration was formed by AHI and Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization to provide telemedicine resources to our PPSs.

The Collaboration serves 11 upstate counties (Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren and Washington) with telemedicine project support including connecting organizations to specialists, providing insight on equipment and software, support for developing telemedicine policy and procedures, program planning and implementation and providing information on telemedicine equipment grant opportunities.

For more information visit [AHI Telemedicine](#) or contact Caitlyn Huntington at chuntington@ahihealth.org.



Adirondack Health Institute

For more information, visit www.ahihealth.org/ahipps

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