



California
Department of
Health Services
DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

May 21, 2003

03-09

TO: LOCAL REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRARS
COUNTY RECORDERS
COUNTY CORONERS

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF VITAL EVENT RECORDS IN RELATION TO
HIPAA (HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT) REQUIREMENTS

Introduction

New national health information privacy standards have been issued pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). These new regulations became effective April 14, 2003. They provide protection for certain individually identifiable health data, referred to as protected health information (PHI).

As a result of these new federal requirements, you may be contacted by health providers concerned about reporting health information used for public health purposes.

**Disclosure of
PHI for vital
records**

PHI may be disclosed, however, without individual authorization for purposes of preparing vital records, such as birth and death. PHI may also be disclosed to public health authorities authorized by law to collect or receive the information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease, injury, or disability, including but not limited to public health surveillance, investigation, and intervention.

Reference: 45 Code of Federal Regulations 164.512



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Center for Health Statistics – Office of Vital Records
304 S Street, P.O. Box 730241, Sacramento, CA 94244-0241
(916) 322-4279
Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov

Attachments

Attached please find a sample letter and supporting information that may be used to inform covered entities that the reporting of vital event records is exempt from HIPAA requirements. Also attached is federal law information relating to HIPAA and state statutes requiring the collection of vital event records.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your Policy/County Analyst.

Original signed by:

Michael L. Rodrian, Chief
Center for Health Statistics

Attachment