

## Are You Protecting Your Cash Flow?

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|---|-----|----|
| 1. Do you currently send electronic claims to a clearinghouse?  | YES | NO |
| 2. Does your billing service send electronic claims to a clearinghouse or directly to a payer on your behalf? | YES | NO |

If you answered yes to either of the questions above:

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| 3. Do <u>you</u> know if the entity submitting <u>your</u> claims has been certified by Claredi, Edifecs, or other nationally recognized firm specializing in evaluating HIPAA transactions compliance? | YES | NO |
| 4. Do <u>you</u> know if the entity submitting <u>your</u> claims successfully completed testing with the payers important to <u>your practice</u> ?  | YES | NO |
| 5. Do <u>you</u> know if the entity submitting <u>your</u> claims begun mapping your data to the new format required by HIPAA?  | YES | NO |

If you answered "no" to any of these questions, it is very likely that your cash flow after October 16 will be negatively impacted. Below are a few things you can do to protect yourself:

1. Find out **for yourself** the status of your clearinghouse's activities to transmit **your** claims to **your key payers**.
2. Take all actions necessary to assure your compliance:
  - a) If your clearinghouse is certified to transmit compliant claims – make sure they are working on or scheduled to complete the mapping of your claims data before 10/16
  - b) If your clearinghouse is not certified for compliance – be careful. Check your key payers' websites to confirm if the clearinghouse has completed testing successfully with the payers you care about. Confirm whether they have completed mapping your data or are scheduled to complete that mapping before 10/16.
3. If your billing service or clearinghouse cannot guarantee it will be prepared for HIPAA's October 16th deadline, consider other clearinghouses. Physicians interested in an interim solution which may eliminate the need to buy new software may wish to consider CMA's sponsored clearinghouse, Infinedi.
4. If your accounts receivable are outstanding – push to clean up all backlogs. Make sure your claims are submitted with minimal delay. No matter when you rendered the service, if you submit the claim on or after 10/16, it has to be HIPAA compliant.
5. Plan on delays in payment – CMA is lobbying hard to assure claims payments will not be delayed for minor technicalities, but the battle is uphill. Your best protection is preparation – get ready and stash a little cash in event the worst occurs.

Additional HIPAA information is available online at <http://www.calphys.org> in the "HIPAA Help Center."

Contact: CMA's HIPAA Hotline, 415/882-3311 or [legalinfo@cmanet.org](mailto:legalinfo@cmanet.org).