

Compliance Alert

September 13, 2005

Compliance Alert, provided by Group Benefit Services, gives you the most up to date information regarding industry news as well as legislation and regulatory activities affecting your health plan.

Topic: HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

A requirement of the HIPAA Privacy regulation is that the Group Health Plan (GHP), as a covered entity, must provide the plan participants with a Notice of Privacy Practices every year.

For your convenience, attached is a sample that you can use. It is the same sample GBS sent to you in preparation for HIPAA Privacy.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, requires the Group Health Plan to provide this Notice to the plan participants to inform them of how the plan, as well as subcontractors and other vendors, will protect their medical information. The Notice also describes the plan participant's rights under the Privacy regulation.

Group Benefit Services will distribute a Compliance Alert each year as a reminder that this Notice is to be provided to your plan participants annually.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Group Benefits Account Manager at 1.800.638.6085.

This communication is not intended to be legal advice and should not be construed as legal advice. If you have any legal questions or concerns about your plan, GBS recommends seeking counsel from an ERISA attorney.

Keeping you informed. Just one more reason to choose GBS.