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Issue 2, Summer 2015

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This newsletter is prepared by the Office of Compliance and is intended to provide you with current information about HIPAA and other privacy issues. For additional information, to view past newsletters, or to provide comments about this or any future issues of this newsletter, please contact the Office of Compliance at (213) 740-8258 or at compliance@usc.edu.

The USC Help & Hotline is a number that all faculty, staff, and students can use to

USC Policy Updates!

The university recently updated HIPAA privacy policies relating to patients' rights to access health information, request amendments and an accounting of disclosures. The patients' rights forms have been revised as well to be simpler and easier for patients to complete. The updated policies and forms are at <http://policy.usc.edu/hipaa/>.

Office for Civil Rights Launches Phase 2 HIPAA Audit Program with Pre-Audit Screening Surveys

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) covered entities have reported that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights (OCR) recently sent pre-audit screening surveys to a pool of covered entities that may be selected for a second phase of audits (Phase 2 Audits) of compliance with the HIPAA Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Standards, as required by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH Act). OCR had originally planned to issue these screening surveys in the summer of 2014.

OCR is conducting Phase 2 Audits of both covered entities and business associates. The Phase 2 Audit program will focus on areas of greater risk to the security of protected health information (PHI) and on pervasive non-compliance based on OCR's Phase I Audit findings and observations, rather than a comprehensive review of all of the HIPAA Standards. OCR also intends for the Phase 2 Audits to identify best practices and uncover risks and vulnerabilities that OCR has not identified through other enforcement activities.

Anyone who receives a letter or communication from HHS OCR should [contact the Office of Compliance](#) immediately.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/office-civil-rights-launches-phase-2-hipaa-audit-program-pre-audit-screening-surveys>

OCR Names New Head of Privacy Division at HHS

Privacy lawyer Deven McGraw has been named deputy director of the health information privacy division at HHS' Office for Civil Rights as of June 29th. In this role, McGraw will lead OCR's policy and enforcement on HIPAA. McGraw replaces Susan McAndrew, who retired in May 2014.

report suspected violations of an applicable law, regulation, or university policy confidentially and without fear of retribution. The Help & Hotline can also be used to ask questions about applicable laws, regulations, and university policies that may impact your job duties.

The USC Help & Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: (213) 740-2500.

The division is charged with enforcing privacy, security and breach notification regulations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. This includes maintaining the "wall of shame" website for major healthcare data breaches.

McGraw is well-known to the health IT community. She served during the administrations of presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama as a privacy and security adviser to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology at HHS. Most recently, McGraw was a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, where she co-chaired the firm's Privacy and Data Security practice.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/deputy-director.html>

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20150626/NEWS/150629929>

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