

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 05-049

Proclaiming the Week of April 10 through 16, 2005 as National Health Information Privacy and Security Week in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Since enactment of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and its implementing regulations, the County has worked on developing and implementing policies and procedures to protect the privacy of individually identifiable health information.
- b. On January 9, 2003, by Resolution 03-006, the Board designated the County as a "Hybrid Covered Entity" for purposes of HIPAA compliance.
- c. On April 10, 2003, by Resolution 03-054, the Board adopted privacy policies as required by HIPAA Privacy Rules and directed covered components within the "hybrid covered entity" to implement such policies.
- d. The Board will also adopt security policies by April 2005 as required by HIPAA Security Rules.
- e. National Health Information Privacy and Security Week, sponsored by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), is designed to raise public awareness of the importance of personal health information (PHI) privacy and security.
- f. As National Health Information Privacy and Security Week (April 10–16) approaches, the AHIMA offers five steps citizens can take to ensure the protection and confidentiality of their PHI:
 - (1) Read your healthcare provider's and health plan's Notice of Privacy Practices. This notice informs you about your rights and how they may use your personal health information. Remember that you can request restrictions on the use and disclosure of your health information for treatment, payment, or notification purposes.
 - (2) Talk to your healthcare provider and health plan if you have any concerns about the confidentiality of your health information.
 - (3) Read the fine print before you authorize release of information. The authorization should specify who is to receive your health information and the purpose of its use.
 - (4) Know what health information is being collected about you and by whom. Find out what safeguards are used to keep it confidential.

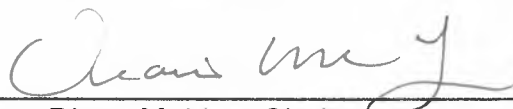
- (5) Be cautious before giving your information on Web sites, phone surveys, or in health screening questionnaires. Know how the information may be used or disclosed.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The week of April 10 through 16, 2005, to be "National Health Information Privacy and Security Week" in Multnomah County, Oregon. We commend the County workforce for their accomplishments and efforts in protecting the privacy, confidentiality, and security of personal health information and encourage our citizens to take the steps recommended by AHIMA for protection of their PHI.

ADOPTED this 7th day of April, 2005.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Diane M. Linn, Chair

