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AHIOS CELEBRATES 15th YEAR ANNIVERSARY
*Organization Has Served as Advocate for the Health Information Management
Outsourcing Industry, Promoting Fairness and Equitable Treatment*

BOSTON, Mass., March 29, 2011 — The Association of Health Information Outsourcing Services (AHIOS), an organization committed to promoting excellence in the handling and dissemination of confidential patient-identifiable information, has announced its 15th year of serving the Health Information Management (HIM) outsourcing industry. Since its inception, AHIOS has worked tirelessly on behalf of the outsourcing industry to protect the interests of release of information (ROI) specialists by using legislative, regulatory and legal processes.

Established in April 1996 with seven members, the organization's core mission was established to counsel and educate state and federal officeholders regarding the labor and complexities involved with ROI services. The association's efforts are intended to create fair and equitable legislation for HIM outsourcing companies to ensure that they remain viable. Over the past 15 years, the association has seen an influx of hybrid paper/electronic health records (EHR) due to advancements in technology and recent government regulations such as meaningful use, which has added to the labor and time it takes for ROI specialists to complete ROI requests.

Moving forward, AHIOS will continue to monitor how the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act's initiative — requiring providers to adopt certified EHR systems in order to obtain government issued incentives — will affect the ROI industry. AHIOS members will monitor proposed legislation, both state and federal, to ensure fairness for those who are involved in the handling and dissemination of confidential patient information.

“The ROI process has gradually grown more complex since the formation of AHIOS fifteen years ago,” stated AHIOS President, Mariela Twiggs. “Intensified government regulations stemming from recent federal HIPAA mandates and state legislation have made it increasingly complex to properly disclose

patient health information. It truly takes a well-trained professional to comply with the many required steps in the ROI process. Recent breach regulations, which are still evolving, have increased liability tremendously. As our members have witnessed over time, the need for our organization has only become more pronounced. We look forward to continuing to serve as the protector of HIM outsourcing companies across the U.S. for years to come.”

About the Association of Health Information Outsourcing Services

Established in 1996, AHIOS promotes, strengthens and enhances the health information management outsourcing industry while ensuring excellence in the handling and dissemination of confidential patient-identifiable information. Its goals are to increase awareness of the value, importance and complexity of the industry’s services; establish standards of excellence for the industry of health information management outsourcing; pursue fair and equitable treatment of the industry through legislative, regulatory and legal processes; and create educational and networking opportunities for members. To learn more about AHIOS, please visit www.AHIOS.org.

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