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Media Contact:
Jessica Cohen
Aria Marketing
617-332-9999 x203

AHIOS Fall Meeting Addresses Critical Issues at 2010 AHIMA Convention

Industry Expert, Dr. Deborah Peel, leads discussion on HIPAA, Privacy Breaches and Medical ID Theft

BOSTON, Mass., November 17, 2010 — The Association of Health Information Outsourcing Services (AHIOS), an organization committed to promoting excellence in the handling and dissemination of confidential patient-identifiable information, gathered for its annual Fall meeting in Orlando, FL on September 30th, following the annual American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Convention. Joining AHIOS members was Dr. Deborah Peel, founder and chair of Patient Privacy Rights, a nonprofit health privacy organization with 10,000 members in all 50 states. Dr. Peel led a discussion focusing on several key healthcare security and privacy issues, including concerns related to the increasing number of healthcare data breaches and the financial detriment they have on both providers and patients across the country.

At the AHIOS member meeting, Dr. Peel gave a presentation titled, “Update on Changes to HIPAA, Breaches, and Medical ID Theft,” which highlighted the escalating problem of stolen medical identification and the financial impact it has on healthcare institutions and patients. Dr. Peel and AHIOS also discussed the growing trend of Remote Authentication Systems, which have been introduced in recent years to combat theft and provide greater identity assurance in healthcare and in other industries. Additionally, Dr. Peel referenced the new Meaningful Use provision approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which gives providers a three business-day window to provide a patient’s health record when requested.

To complement Dr. Peel’s presentation, AHIOS member and legislative chair, Jan McDavid, discussed recent legislation trends that directly impact a Health Information Management (HIM) professional’s ability to release a patient’s health record safely and securely. McDavid has lobbied both the United States Congress and individual states to promote the value of HIM professionals and the importance and complexity of the services they provide. She also stressed the need for each AHIOS member to do their

due diligence in reviewing their representatives' websites and previous votes to gain further insight into voting patterns and viewpoints.

“We are honored to have had one of the top industry luminaries present at our annual Fall meeting,” said Matt Rohs, president of AHIOS. “Dr. Peel’s captivating presentation spotlights how widespread HIPAA laws and other regulations are being violated when it comes to properly handling a patient’s private medical record. Having presenters with the stature of Dr. Peel discuss the need to better protect patients’ identities illustrates the importance of the AHIOS message that outsourcing the Release of Information process to experts remains critical. The opportunity to gather the top minds in the industry at our Fall meeting serves as an invaluable investment for industry leaders to be aware of trends and future changes that could affect their businesses.”

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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