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AHIOS Announces Code of Ethics and Standards

Code Protects Patient Privacy, Standards of Excellence in Release of Information

BOSTON, Mass., January 6, 2008 — The Association of Health Information Outsourcing Services (AHIOS) introduced today a Code of Ethics and Standards that requires its membership to adhere to specific ethical principles in order to protect patient privacy and uphold the highest standards of excellence in service delivery in health information management outsourcing.

Privacy and confidentiality are fundamental components of the association's core mission, and this new code will help ensure that the AHIOS mission is actionable for all its members. Among the key principles in the new code of ethics and standards are to:

- Advocate, uphold and defend an individual's right to privacy and the doctrine of confidentiality in the use and disclosure of confidential information
- Ensure service, health and welfare of persons before self-interest and conduct the practice of the profession so as to bring honor to themselves, their colleagues and the health information professionals
- Ensure that appropriate safeguards are enforced and in effect to protect an individual's confidential information as set for in the applicable statues and regulations
- Refuse to participate in or conceal unethical practices or procedures

“Since our inception, we have worked tirelessly to establish standards of excellence for protecting patient privacy and confidentiality in the Release-of-Information (ROI) process,” said Bonnie Coffey, president of AHIOS and CM Information Specialists. “By developing this code

of ethics and standards, we are ensuring that our members adhere to these important principles each and every day. We hope this sets the ethical bar not only for our membership but for the ROI industry as a whole.”

The complete Code of Ethics and Standards is available on the association’s web site at www.ahios.org.

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.

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