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GEORGE C. SINNOTT
COMMISSIONER

DANIEL E. WALL
EXECUTIVE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

March 25, 2003

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

Last September we provided your Agency's Health Benefits Administrator with some general information regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). As we indicated at that time, the HIPAA privacy regulations, which have been codified at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, have a compliance date of April 14, 2003. In recent months the HIPAA privacy regulations have been finalized and we have taken steps to ensure that NYSHIP is in full compliance. I want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on those steps as well as information about how HIPAA affects the relationship between NYSHIP and your agency. For your information, I have also included background information about HIPAA.

A copy of the attached material also is being provided to your agency's health benefits administrator. Health benefit administrators also have and will continue to receive HIPAA information through broadcast messages and/or memos from the Employee Benefits Division.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert W. DuBois, CEBS
Director
Employee Benefits Division

Attachments

cc: Health Benefits Administrators