

AHA/Claredi HIPAA Transactions Offering

In speaking with many of our American Hospital Association members over the last several months, I have learned that many hospitals and other health care organizations are very concerned about the cost and time involved with preparing and testing their electronic transaction formats for compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). ***The deadline for all covered entities to start to test software and systems was April 16th, 2003, and the compliance date for all organizations that filed for an extension last year and small health plans is October 16, 2003.***

Because this may be an aspect of HIPAA compliance that your organization is also struggling to address, I wanted to make you aware of the testing and certification program offered by Claredi Corporation that the AHA has partnered with to provide to its members. When hospitals submit a transaction through Claredi's testing system, they receive a thorough analysis that points out any deficiencies. Hospitals are able to test every type of transaction until all issues are resolved and the transactions are ready to be sent to every trading partner. This enables a hospital to identify problems early, which will ensure timely reimbursement.

After a thorough market assessment process, the AHA chose to align with Claredi on this program because of their unique, affordable testing and certification technologies, commitment to health care, and ability to assist both small and large hospitals in their compliance initiatives. ***As an additional benefit to AHA member hospitals, these organizations will receive a 20% pricing discount on the Claredi program.***

If you would like more information about this AHA/Claredi program or would like to sign up, please go to <https://www.claredi.com/myaccount/newaccount.php> and enter the following code: 40123.

If you have any questions about any other HIPAA resources that the AHA offers, please do not hesitate to contact me at blane@aha.org or 800-242-4677. You may also visit the AHA website at www.hospitalconnect.com.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Lane
Assistant Vice President
Technology