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September 17, 2010

CHANCELLORS
DIRECTOR, LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY
MEDICAL CENTER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Revised Systemwide HIPAA policies, effective immediately

Dear Colleagues:

For a number of years, the University has had in place a comprehensive systemwide set of HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) policies and implementation procedures, which have been contained in a single document. In 2009, the federal government enacted the American Recovery and Revitalization Act (ARRA), which included the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act that revised the Privacy and Security Rules of HIPAA. To comport with these changes in the federal law, and to make the policies more user-friendly, the University has revised its 2003 systemwide HIPAA policies. Attached are the revised policies. Please note that a revised policy on HIPAA as it applies to human subjects research will be forthcoming, once coordination is concluded with relevant stakeholders.

The substantive changes to the policies are those required by federal law or regulation. In addition, the following changes have been made to make the policies more accessible:

- Division of one comprehensive document into nine much shorter, more succinct documents, with an accompanying glossary; and
- Streamlining or eliminating some procedures and status reporting to UCOP.

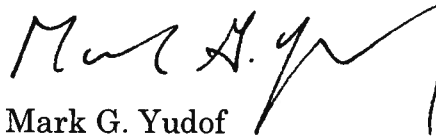
These policies have been revised by the HIPAA Officers at the five academic medical centers in collaboration with Systemwide Privacy Officer Opland. This effort included broad review with all HIPAA Officers systemwide (and through them with their respective campuses), the Office of General Counsel, and consultation with Provost Pitts, Chair Powell and Vice Chair Simmons of the Academic Senate, and Senior Vice President--Health Sciences & Services Stobo. Employee organizations also were provided an opportunity to comment on these policies.

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These important policies should be widely disseminated to all affected personnel. To the extent that revisions to the policies affect specific individuals' job functions, the regulations require that we train those individuals on the policy revisions. Since this is the first time our systemwide HIPAA policies have been revised since 2003, and in light of continuing vulnerability to privacy breaches, this would be an appropriate opportunity to consider refresher training for all HIPAA-covered personnel.

Any inquiries regarding these policies may be directed to your local HIPAA Officers.

Sincerely yours,



Mark G. Yudof
President

Attachments:

- UC HIPAA Glossary
- HIPAA Administrative Requirements
- HIPAA Business Associates
- HIPAA Information Security
- HIPAA Breach Response
- HIPAA Patients' Rights
- HIPAA Uses and Disclosures
- HIPAA Uses & Disclosures for Marketing
- HIPAA Uses and Disclosures for Fundraising
- HIPAA Uses and Disclosures for UC Group Health Plans

cc: Members, President's Cabinet
Academic Senate Chair Simmons
Health Sciences School Deans
Universitywide HIPAA Officers
Universitywide Student Health Center/Student Counseling Center Directors
University Policy Office