

A HIPAA Conviction and a Timeline for New HIPAA Regulations

28. April 2010 By Norbert Kugele

Back in January, I wrote [about a criminal case](#) against a former doctor who worked at the UCLA School of Medicine. The doctor had entered into a plea bargain admitting that he had improperly accessed over 300 medical records upon being notified that he was being terminated.

Today, we have [news that he has been sentenced](#) to four months in prison. [Another story](#) reports that he was also fined \$2000. Among the records that he accessed were those of Sharon Osbourne, Barbara Walters, Elizabeth Banks, Leonardo DiCaprio and Anne Rice.

Since we're talking about HIPAA, we also have [a recent report](#) indicating that new HIPAA regulations will be released some time in May. As you may recall, HIPAA was amended last year by the HITECH Act and we've been waiting for regulations that explain how to implement some of the HITECH Act's new requirements. The new regulations are expected to address business associate liability; new limitations on the sale of personal health information, marketing and fundraising communications; and changes to individual rights regarding access to electronic medical records and restrictions on disclosure of health information to health plans when an individual has paid for treatment entirely out of pocket. Stay tuned for more information once the regulations come out.

If you need help complying with HIPAA, Warner Norcross & Judd can help. Give us a call!

Norbert F. Kugele
nkugele@wnj.com
616.752.2186