

[<Back](#)



September 3, 2008

Home Care Association of Colorado Management Report

In This Issue

- [HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website](#)
- [Your Dues Working For You: Medicare Top 10 Tips](#)
- [HIPAA Enforcer Fines Home Health Agency](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Reminders](#)

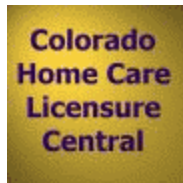
New updates added weekly to www.hcaonline.org! Check it out!

Your Dues Working For You: Medicare Top 10 Tips

This edition of the *HCAC Management Report* features news from CMS and other regulators.

[Click here for CMS / Medicare Top 10 Tips!](#)

HCAC "Home Care Licensure Central" Website



Read the latest draft of Colorado's Home Care Licensure proposed rules at HCAC's "Home Care Licensure Central." This new web page is designed to allow member access to as much information and activity as possible related to the developing home care agency licensing program. Save in your favorites!

[Click here](#) for the Member Only "Home Care Licensure Central"

Quick Links...

- [Don't Miss: Lisa Selman-Holman on "Coding," Sept. 17-19](#)
- [CAHABA Resources](#)

HIPAA Enforcer Fines Home Health Agency

The HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that oversees HIPAA has fined a home health agency \$100,000 for privacy breaches.

According to *Home Health Line*, 8/11/08, the home health agency reported a data loss to OCR from a 2006 theft of information. Computer back up tapes containing 10 years of data was stolen from an employee's car. The files included names, addresses, medical information, and some social security numbers. Around the same time four nurses had laptops stolen.

In the past, OCR has assisted more than 30 home care agencies in improving privacy security practices but this time a fine was included. This is a reminder of the unique situation home care agencies are in when clinicians must carry clinical information in their vehicles. Recommendations for home care agencies in the *Home Health Line* article include:

- Protect data with encryption software that will make hard drives impossible to read.
- Clinicians should never leave their laptops in plain view when they leave their vehicle.
- Documented privacy training and monitoring of staff compliance is a must.

Emergency Preparedness Reminders

- [Read all about HCAC's Annual Convention in Vail](#)
- [Visit Our Brand New 24/7 Virtual trade Show](#)
- [Check Out HCAC's Jobs and Services Store](#)
- [Click here for Members Only State Legislative Bulletin Board](#)

As multiple hurricanes hit our Gulf Coast states, we are reminded that Colorado's Winter season will be here before we know it. You can never be too prepared. And as we've learned over the years being prepared from an "All Hazards" perspective is wise. Here are a few reminders:

- Don't rely on being able to send your sickest patients to the hospital;
- Patients may need to be reassigned based on geographic locations;
- Take notes on everything that happens during the emergency (this can help you if questions arise during your next survey);
- Have paper forms available (in case your computer system is down) and have an abbreviated intake form, and
- Meet with staff now to review your emergency plan.

email: hcac@assnoffice.com
 phone: 303-694-4728
 web: <http://www.hcaonline.org>

 **SafeUnsubscribe**®

This email was sent to mail@assnoffice.com by hcac@assnoffice.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Home Care Association of Colorado | 7400 East Arapahoe Road, Suite 211 | Centennial | CO | 80112