

# PHARMACY UPDATE

## HIPAA *has changed!*

HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) may be one of the most impacting set of regulations to take place in the pharmacy industry. **Now**, with the publication of the **"FINAL" HIPAA Rules in January 2013**, the changes once again profoundly affect pharmacies and other health care facilities.

### The Facts

- ✓ Pharmacies need to replace or revise their existing HIPAA Compliance Program by **September 23, 2013**.
- ✓ Enforcement of compliance was funded in the Affordable Care Act and will be handled by the Office of Civil Rights.
- ✓ Enforcement will be proactive with on-site audits and no longer just in response to complaints.
- ✓ OCR is hiring enforcement officers just for this purpose.
- ✓ OCR is authorized to assess penalties and/or exclude facilities non-compliant from programs payable, directly or indirectly, by Federal health care dollars.

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