Privacy, Confidentiality and Disclosure of Mental Health Information in Pennsylvania

Dealing with the day-to-day challenges of treating clients can be overwhelming in and of itself and the administrative and legal responsibilities are equally challenging. In the era of social media, health care reform and universal adoption of electronic medical records, protecting the privacy, confidentiality, as well as legally appropriate disclosure of a client's information has become even more challenging and confusing. The legal and prudent response to a wide variety of situations demands that mental/behavioral health agencies and licensed professionals and practitioners revisit and review current laws and regulations.

You will leave this seminar with an understanding of the current laws and regulations regarding privacy, confidentiality, and disclosure of mental health information in Pennsylvania in the context of accelerating health care reform initiatives including electronic medical records and social media devices. You will find this seminar critical to help understand and develop appropriate responses to the changing environment of mental health care.

Speaker _____

Susan B. Orr, is a partner in the law firm of Dilworth Paxson, LLP and is located in Exton, PA. She represents and advises health care providers on a variety of regulatory and transactional areas including Part B reimbursement, medical records, privacy and confidentiality issues (HIPAA), fraud and abuse, health care compliance and provider and facility

Seminar Schedule:

7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea **8:00** Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch (on your own) 4:00 Program ends

For locations and maps, go to www.pesi.com, find your event, and click on the seminar title.

Having served as practice administrator for her husband's medical practice for 12 years, Ms. Orr is uniquely qualified to assist clients on practice management issues including reimbursement and payment issues, Medicare and Medicaid compliance, managed care, employment issues, professional practice formation, health care affiliations including physician integration networks, accountable care organizations, joint ventures and contractual arrangements.

Ms. Orr received her J.D. degree from Widener University School of Law where she served as research assistant to Barry Furrow, director of the Health Law Institute. While at Widener, Ms. Orr was the recipient of the Reed Hamilton Memorial Award for excellence in health law. She is admitted to practice in New Jersey and in Pennsylvania and is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Ms. Orr is a regular speaker the topic of Privacy and Confidentiality and Disclosure of Mental Health Information in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania, speaks on various issues with the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians and is a regular contributor to both Keystone Physicians and Perspectives.

Speaker Disclosures

Financial: Susan Orr is Partner for Rhoads & Simon, LLP. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: Susan Orr has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

Target Audience: Social Workers • Counselors • Psychologists • Marriage & Family Therapists AODA Professionals • Health Information Managers • Medical Records Professionals • Nurses

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Privacy, Confidentiality and Disclosure of Mental Health Information in Pennsylvania

- Constitutional right to privacy and mental health information
- HIPAA as amended by the HITECH act and as a base line National Privacy, Confidentiality and Disclosure Code
- Inpatient and outpatient mental health services and the Mental Health Procedures Act— what survives HIPAA; Duty to Warn
- Informed Consent and the duty to explain the limits of confidentiality under state board regulations, including psychologists and recently enacted regulations for SW, MFT, and LPCs
- Balancing the rights of children, adolescents and parents; the Minor's Consent Act as amended by Act 147; rights of adolescents to control the release of the record

Special Issues

- Shared legal custody and control of mental health information after Act 147 and the newly enacted Child Custody Law (Act 112 of 2010)
- Social media and devices: Legal and ethical considerations for agencies and private practitioners-policy considerations

Responding to Subpoenas, Court Orders, **Electronic Discovery Demands, and Audits**

- Professional licensure and privileged communications: Your legal and ethical duties as a private practitioner
- Subpoenas and court orders: Duty to respond
- · Electronic discovery and implications for disclosure of mental health information and social media
- Responding to investigations and audits

HITECH Act and Breach Notification Rules

- HITECH Act and "meaningful use": Financial incentives to adopt electronic health records
- Standards and enforcement penalties under the HITECH Act
- Who is covered and what is a "breach"?
- Who must be notified and how to notify?

Health Care Reform and Privacy, Confidentiality and Disclosure of Mental Health Information: Legal and **Ethical Considerations**

- · Accountable care organizations and clientcentered homes/medical homes
- Telehealth



Objectives

- 1. Discuss Federal (HIPAA) and state legal requirements for privacy, confidentiality and disclosure of mental and behavioral health information.
- 2. Summarize Pennsylvania laws and regulations regarding the rights of children/ adolescents or parents to control the disclosure of mental and behavioral health information under Minor's Consent Act, Act 147 and newly enacted Child Custody Act.
- 3. Review private practitioners' duties related to privileged communications and guidelines for responding to subpoenas, court orders, and the electronic discovery
- 4. Discuss the legal and ethical confidentiality considerations regarding the use of electronic social media devices and electronic health records by agencies and private practitioners.
- 5. Outline the requirements of the HITECH Act regarding a provider's duty to notify patients/clients of a data breach.
- 6. Discuss HITECH Act regarding meaningful use and financial incentives to adopt EHRs.
- 7. Discuss the potential impact of the accountable care organizations, patient-centered homes and the role of mental and behavioral health providers.

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Business Tools for Mental Health Professionals

By Howard Baumgarten, MA, LPC

Private Practice Essentials is an innovative, practical guide and workbook for creating business and clinical success in your counseling and therapy practice. You'll be guided through numerous exercises that provide a solid and personalized plan with realistic and attainable goals. It's like having a professional business consultant right at your fingertips, including 75+ reproducible worksheets, forms and exercises.



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