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March 2019

From the MRD Desk

by Chris Divver



From the MRD desk...

Last month I discussed the importance of having your paperwork with Alcor kept up to date to prevent any last-minute issues. A few of you even took the initiative and sent me a copy of your AMD and MPOA to place into your file. I/we appreciate that!

This month we will discuss HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and why it's important to you.

IN 1996, HIPAA was introduced and endorsed by Congress. After some fine tuning it was signed into law by President Clinton under the premise that most of us believe our medical and other health information is private and should be protected by those entities that require we share that information with them. The HIPAA Privacy Rule, also called the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, provided the first nationally-recognizable regulations for the use/disclosure of an individual's health information. Essentially, the Privacy Rule defines how covered entities use individually-identifiable health information or the PHI (Personal Health Information). 'Covered entities' is a term often used in HIPAA-compliant guidelines.

The law is broken up into Title I and Title II, the latter of which is also broken up into separate Rules. Title I is

called "Health Care Access, Portability, and Renewability" and it deals with health care plans and policies. Title I regulates the amount of "exclusion" period, or time that health insurers can delay coverage for pre-existing conditions and allows ways for policy holders to reduce the exclusion period. Title I also enables people to carry their insurance from one job to the next. Title II is called "Preventing Health Care Fraud and Abuse" and it is made up of five separate Rules: The Privacy Rule, Transactions and Code Sets Rule, Security Rule, Unique Identifiers or National Provider Rule, and the Enforcement Rule. The Privacy Rule, a Federal law, gives you rights over your health information and sets rules and limits on who can look at and receive your health information. This Privacy rule applies to all forms of individuals' protected health information, whether electronic, written, or oral. The Security Rule is a Federal law that requires security for health information in electronic form.

HIPAA identifies a covered entity as a health plan, a healthcare clearinghouse, or a healthcare provider; essentially the people or organizations that must comply with HIPPA are covered entities. Alcor is considered a covered entity.

In Alcor News Bulletin, #21, dated February 6, 2004, Dr. Michael Perry describes an account of how HIPAA protects you, yet, simultaneously hinders Alcor. In this bulletin, Dr. Perry recounts being notified of a member having been taken to the hospital following a serious medical emergency. Dr. Perry contacted the receiving hospital only to be told by the nursing supervisor that since Alcor was not listed on the patient's HIPAA form, she could not discuss the patient's current medical condition, nor could she divulge whether the patient was even still alive.

Clearly, this creates an issue that is less than ideal for our staff and for our members. I would respectfully request you speak with your primary care physician and obtain a HIPAA form from them and have all the pertinent information filled out **EXCEPT** for the date

and send it to me. I will then add it to your file, and, in the event of a medical event, we have permission to access your information to ensure a prompt response by our SST team, if necessary.

Until next month when I will discuss the importance of notification.

Christopher Divver, Medical Response Director

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UPCOMING SCOTTSDALE EVENT

Run the Runway



Run the Runway is a one-of-a-kind experience where runners are invited to go for the gold right on the runway of the Scottsdale Airport! Proceeds from Run the Runway benefit Playworks and Arizona students. With Playworks, students can experience safe and inclusive play every day!

The staff at Alcor will be participating in this event in Scottsdale on April 6, 2019. Along with our partners in the the Scottsdale Airpark, Alcor will be sponsoring a booth at the Annual Run the Runway event.

We hope to see our local members join us to support our community, get some exercise and enjoy the festivities. More information can be found on the Run the Runway website as well as registration for the 10K or 5K walk/run. You can also stop by just to visit our booth at the festival which starts at 6:00 a.m. with the run starting at 7:30 a.m.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

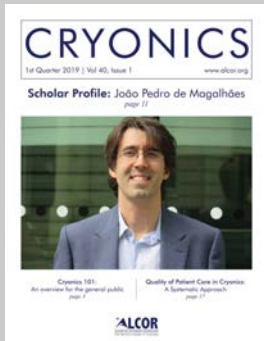
CRYONICS SYMPOSIUM

July 27, 2019

**Church of Perpetual Life
Hollywood, FL**

This is a new event which will be chaired by Neal VanDeRee, open to all cryonicists, antiagers, skeptics, prospects, scoffers.

Associate 296 285
Total 1,698 1,691



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