



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NCHICA and WEDI Release New Timeline for HIPAA Implementation Industry Must Start Work Now to Meet Regulatory Deadline

Research Triangle Park, NC and Reston, VA (February 11, 2009) - With HHS' recent publication of the final rule for X12 Version 5010 for HIPAA transactions, the NCHICA-WEDI timeline for HIPAA implementation has been modified to reflect the new required compliance date. Based on extensive analysis and industry feedback, the new timeline reflects the Jan 1, 2012 compliance date for 5010, and the expected January-December 2011 partner testing and implementation timeframe.

The critical path for implementation requires that vendors, health plans and providers all start their implementation work now. The expected analyses of business processes and IT systems, software development, testing and rollout is expected to take the full time allowed in the January 16th regulation published by HHS. Any delay in starting this work will jeopardize the ability of an entity to meet the compliance date.

Jim Schuping, the Executive Vice President & CEO of WEDI, stated, "There is a clear indication from CMS that they expect the industry to meet the compliance date, and there will be no contingency period. We have created this timeline as a guide and management tool for the industry to follow. WEDI will continue to monitor progress and provide guidance and assistance to enable the industry to meet the regulatory deadlines."

Holt Anderson, the Executive Director of NCHICA, added, "The NCHICA-WEDI timeline shows clearly the need to start now so that a successful move to the new HIPAA standards is accomplished by the industry. We must learn the lessons from prior implementations that any delay is a guarantee of failure."

In fulfillment of their nonprofit charters to undertake projects in the public interest, NCHICA and WEDI are providing the timeline tool at no charge on the NCHICA website at:

<http://www.nchica.org/HIPAAResources/timeline.htm>. The timeline is available in both Microsoft Project® and Adobe PDF formats.

NCHICA and WEDI will continue to work together on further timeline efforts. The Timeline Initiative team is developing an additional timeline for implementation of the new ICD-10 code sets, which have a compliance date of October 1, 2013. They expect to publish the initial timeline within the next six months. Further information on the Timeline Initiative can be found at

<http://www.nchica.org/HIPAAResources/timeline.htm> and
http://www.wedi.org/public/articles/dis_viewArticle.cfm?ID=741.

In response to the growing interest in the NCHICA-WEDI Timeline Initiative, WEDI has created list serves for payers, providers and vendors to support the work being done. To sign up, go to:
http://www.wedi.org/users_only/maillinglist/MailingListFormPublic/subscriptions.



NCHICA's Transactions, Code Sets & Identifiers Workgroup is forming an ICD-10 Task Force to help NCHICA members address ICD-10 implementation. For more information, call 919-558-9258.

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About NCHICA

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium that serves as an open, effective and neutral forum for health information technology (HIT) initiatives that improve health and care in North Carolina. Members include leading organizations in healthcare, research and information technology.

Working closely with its members, NCHICA has the unique ability to convene and form partnerships to advance HIT adoption. NCHICA's leadership in conducting demonstration projects, hosting educational sessions and fostering collective efforts within North Carolina helps position the state at the vanguard of national HIT acceleration efforts. NCHICA is located in Research Triangle Park, NC. For more information, please call (919) 558-9258 or visit www.nchica.org.

About WEDI

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is a broad-based industry coalition "partnering for electronic delivery of information in healthcare." WEDI is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, near Washington, DC. Inquiries for additional information may be directed to WEDI, c/o Jim Schuping, Executive Vice President/CEO, 12020 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 100, Reston, VA 20191. Phone: 703-391-2716; e-mail: jschuping@wedi.org.

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