

# LINK, Inc.

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.linkinc.org](http://www.linkinc.org)

## Summer Fun



The remaining letters spell an additional summer item



- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| ANTS        | PICNIC        |
| AUGUST      | ROLLER BLADES |
| BARBECUE    | SANDALS       |
| BASEBALL    | SKATEBOARD    |
| BEACH       | SKATEBOARD    |
| BEES        | SOCCER        |
| BICYCLE     | SOLSTICE      |
| BLUE SKY    | SPRINKLERS    |
| BOATING     | SUNBURN       |
| BREEZE      | SUNGLASSES    |
| CAMPFISHING | SUNSCREEN     |
| FLIES       | SUNSHINE      |
| FLOWERS     | SUNTAN        |
| GARDENING   | SWEAT         |
| GOLF        | SWIMMING      |
| GREEN GRASS | U V RAYS      |
| HAT         | WASPS         |
| HIKING      | WATER FIGHTS  |
| HOLIDAYS    | WATERMELON    |
| HOT         |               |
| ICE CREAM   |               |
| JULY        |               |
| JUNE        |               |
| MOSQUITOES  |               |
| NO SCHOOL   |               |



J U N E S T S S S S Y K S E U L B M  
 U S M E A U Y E O U H I K I N G S A  
 S M W E E A N L U B N W A S E Y R E  
 U T W I R R S G I C A B L N A R E R  
 N S H V M T C C L T E A U D T V L C  
 T Y U G I M Y S E A D B I R S S K E  
 A G L C I C I R N N S L R R N D N C  
 N R E U L F M N A U O S E A R G I I  
 O E A E J E R S G H S W E A B N R C  
 S E D A L B R E L L O R O S R I P R  
 C N A O F L O G T L T B T E E T S E  
 H G N I H S I F F A E O A E E A H C  
 O R C A M P I N G T W T H B Z O C C  
 O A C I N C I P A W A S P S E B A O  
 L S F L I E S K M O S Q U I T O E S  
 T S U G U A S I L L A B E S A B B O  
 G N I N F D R A G S U N S H I N F N



# PCA Newsletter

Confidentiality—HIPAA or Hippopotamus?

Excerpts from: Comfort of Home—Care Giver Assistant News

July— August 2011

LINK, Inc.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), like many laws, contains many items. Our concern here is the “privacy rule”.

Implemented in 2003, the Health Insurance, Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is both federal law and a national standard for the health care industry. It spells out certain rights for individual patients of all ages. It also penalizes and fines health care providers and facilities that do not follow the rules outlined by HIPAA. Under HIPAA, patients can find out how their information is being used and who it is being shared with. Patients can establish a time limit on the release of this information.

In addition, the law specifies a patient’s right to examine and obtain his records in a timely fashion. This applies whether the patient record is electronic (on a computer) or paper. Additionally, the law provides for individuals to dispute errors in their health care records, and to file complaints if they believe their privacy has been violated.

### The Privacy Rule

There are limits to the information that can be shared under the HIPAA privacy law. If the health care provider “deems” it in the patients best interest or believes the release of certain information would endanger or harm the patient, it may be withheld in some

cases. Health care providers and organizations are allowed to require that patients make requests in writing. Psychiatric care notes, information gathered for use in legal proceedings, and certain laboratory information (such as HIV status) can be withheld.

Certain information collected in research studies can also be withheld. Information and records can also be withheld if the health care provider cannot verify the identity of the person requesting the information or their legal right to that information.

Privacy rules also generally require that persons who are legally authorized to act on behalf of an individual regarding health care matters be granted the same rights to access of information. However, the rule defers to state law to determine when a person has the legal authority to act on behalf of another in matter related to health care.

### Update To HIPAA Policy 6/11 !!!

**HHS announces proposed changes to HIPAA Rule HITECH lets people know who has accessed their health information.**

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the accounting of disclosures requirement under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) Act Privacy Rule, is available for public comment. The proposed rule would give people the

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Pay Period	Time Sheets Due By 1 p.m. C.S.T.	Pay Day
06/16/11 TO 06/30/11	7/5/2011	7/12/2011
07/01/11 TO 07/15/11	7/19/2011	7/26/2011
07/16/11 TO 07/31/11	8/3/2011	8/10/2011
08/01/11 TO 08/15/11	8/18/2011	8/25/2011
08/16/11 TO 08/31/11	9/6/2011	9/13/2011



**How can a care giver best navigate through the health care system and HIPAA?**

What if you are a paid care giver? Sometimes you are the one who spends the most time with the patient, but you most likely do not have legally recognized authority to act on behalf of the one in your care.

Whether your are a paid care giver or a family member caring for a loved one, here are some points to discuss about the privacy laws with the person in your care:

- What does he want your role to be?
- Does he want you to be involved directly in his health care visits or have your listed as someone the provider can speak to on his behalf? Or, does he prefer that his health care visits remain private, just between him and his health care provider or the provider and another person or family member?
- If a person in your care is confused or unable to make decisions for himself, who is considered "next of kin"? Do they have legal authority to act for the patient? If so, speak with them about any concerns you have.
- Know who holds the state- recognized authority, such as health care power of attorney, for the one in your care. This can be very important, especially in emergencies.

The HIPAA law includes provisions for many things other than the privacy rules discussed here. For more questions visit: [www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa) and [www.nextstepincare.org/search?q=Hipaa](http://www.nextstepincare.org/search?q=Hipaa) These websites can help you through the maze of rights concerning caregivers.

To all of our PCA's who celebrate a Birthday in July and August  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



**TO HAVE YOUR NAME PUT IN A DRAWING FOR A BAG OF GOODIES FROM LINK- CALL BONNIE AT 1-800-569-5926**

**Changes to HIPAA Rule- - cont. from page 1**

right to get a report on who has electronically accessed their protected health information. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is proposing changes to Privacy Rule, pursuant to the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. HITECH is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"This proposed rule represents an important step in our continued efforts to promote accountability across the health care system, ensuring that providers properly safeguard private health information," says OCR Director Georgina Verdugo. "We need to protect peoples' rights so they know how their health information has been used or disclosed."

People would obtain this information by requesting an access report, which would document the particular persons who electronically accessed and viewed their protected health information. Although covered entities are currently required by the HIPAA Security Rule to track access to electronic protected health information, they are not required to share this information with people.

The proposed rule requires an accounting of more detailed information for certain disclosures that are most likely to affect a person's rights or interests. The proposed changes to the accounting requirements provide information of value to individuals while placing a seasonable burden on covered entities and business associates.

People may now read the proposed rule at: <http://www.federalregister.gov> and submit comments to: <http://www.regulations.gov> (search for Proposed Rule) through August 1, 2011

People who believe a covered entity has violated their (or someone else's) health information privacy rights or committed another violation of the HIPAA Privacy or Security Rule, may file a complaint with OCR at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/cr/privacy/hipaa/complaints/index.html>

Additional information about OCR's enforcements activities can be found at

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr>

# July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Don't forget to circle Attendant Care or Night Support at the top of your Time sheet please.					1	2
3		5 Time Sheets due by 1 p.m.	6	7 Chocolate Day	8	9
10 	11	12 \$ Pay Day \$	13	14	15 End of Pay Period 7/1/11-7/15/11	16 National Hot Dog Day
17	18 Hug your kid Day	19 Time Sheets due by 1 p.m.	20	21 National Junk Food Day	22	23 Gorgeous Grandma Day
24 National Parents Day	25	26 \$ Pay Day \$	27	28 National Chili Dog Day	29	30 Father-in-Law Day
31 End of Pay Period 7/16/11-7/31/11						

# August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 US Air Force Day	2	3 Time Sheets due by 1 p.m.	4 Nat. Chocolate Chip Day	5	6 
7 Assistance Dog Day	8 	9	10 \$ Pay Day \$	11	12	13 National Garage Sale Day
14	15 End of Pay Period 8/1/11-8/15/11	16	17	18 Time Sheets due by 1 p.m.	19	20 
21 Senior Citizen's Day	22	23	24	25 \$ Pay Day \$	26 National Dog Day	27
28 	29	30	31	<b>PCA's : Please be sure to sign all paperwork that requires your signature</b>		