

The bullet...

... ripped through the city councilwoman's body, shredding muscles she had proudly toned in the gym. As the ambulance sped her toward the hospital, word of the gunshot reached reporters, who gathered in the emergency room to hunt down information on the councilwoman.

Was it...

...attempted murder or attempted suicide?
Could it be terrorism?

Nearby, family tearfully awaited news of the fate of the councilwoman, who was now unconscious.



Patient Follow-Up Visit

Another patient you've been following returns for a follow-up visit. The arthritis in his wrist has increased and doesn't seem to respond to ibuprofen anymore. He is an ardent racquetball player and the pain is interfering with his game. Since his early retirement, he's been able to play a lot more and the pain has become problematic.

This patient seems like a perfect candidate for the study. How do you proceed? Since you've already met Dr. Smith, can you contact him directly?



Her family arrives....

...and disclose their fear that the councilwoman shot herself due to her long-running private battle with depression. The hospital treatment team wants to see her psychiatric treatment records and psychotherapy notes. How does HIPAA impact these requests?

Several hours have passed...

... and her family and the media are pressing for information on her condition and prognosis. What level of disclosure is permitted to these groups under HIPAA?

The ER's screening software...

...has flagged the councilwoman as a candidate for an ongoing research study on female gunshot victims. The research coordinator appears at the councilwoman's bedside, obtains informed consent, and then begins the research protocol. Is this consistent with HIPAA regulations?



The medical students...

...who participated in the councilwoman's care at the teaching hospital are writing up her case for next month's grand rounds presentation. How does HIPAA affect the amount or type of information that can be included in the presentation?

Goal

- Provide HIPAA training for medical center faculty, staff, and students (2900+ students) by April 14, 2003



Four Key Requirements

- Web-based for 24/7 access
- Scenarios to illustrate HIPAA regulations
- Quiz to demonstrate HIPAA mastery
- Monitoring capability for academic coordinators

Implementation

- Authors worked interactively with legal expert to develop content and quiz (Nov.-Jan.)
- Module pilot tested and revised (Jan.)
- Module deployed using Prometheus, the University's course management system (Feb.)
- Module certified for CME credit and hosted by CE department for physicians (Feb.)
- Module submitted for approval by affiliated covered entities (Feb.-March)
- Roll out instructions on mandatory HIPAA training requirement (Feb.)
- Training period (March-April)

Results

- Over 2900 people trained
- Module shared with main campus
- Positive feedback, especially for scenarios
- Complaints: length of module, too much legalese
- Security update disseminated in late April and integrated into module
- Training continues for new students and residents
- Migration to new course management system (Blackboard)

Conclusions

- Success begets new project
- Authors asked to create student and resident training program for hospital 2004 National Patient Safety Goals
- Success fosters strong ties to academic coordinators throughout medical center
- Authors consulted by other divisions regarding implementation strategies and best practices for new medical center training initiatives