

Dear Tumor Registrar/Administrator:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability act of 1996 (HIPAA) became law April 14, 2001. While most organizations have two full years – until April 14, 2003 – to comply, questions regarding how this new law impacts cancer reporting have arisen.

The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) has provided materials that address these questions. As you will see, HIPAA regulations only minimally impact current state cancer reporting procedures. Specifically,

**HIPAA allows for the reporting of identifiable cancer data to public health entities. Because the Florida Cancer Data System falls under the definition of a public health entity, HIPAA allows your facility to continue to report data to us in compliance with state law. Written informed consent from each cancer patient reported to public health entities is not required under HIPAA; rather hospitals must simply document that reporting has occurred.**

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter from the NAACCR legal counsel, an academic interpretation of HIPAA from Professor James G. Hodge, Jr., J.D., LL.M., of the Georgetown University Law Center, and a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

We hope this material is beneficial in your understanding the HIPAA requirements regarding cancer incidence reporting.

Sincerely,



Jill A. MacKinnon  
Administrative Director, FCDS

cc: Dr. Youjie Huang, DOH