



The Health Information Network

Dear Electronic Billing Associate

On December 28, 2000, the final ruling for HIPAA Privacy was issued, released to the Federal Register and published. The purpose of the privacy regulations as stated in the final rule, is to provide enhanced protections for individually identifiable health information. Under the HIPAA Privacy Rules, a covered entity may disclose Protected Health Information (PHI) to a Business Associate, and may allow Business Associates to create or receive PHI on behalf of a covered entity.

Effective **04/14/03**, health care providers, payors, billing agents, and clearinghouses who transmit and/or receive PHI in an electronic format through Health Care Service Corporation's (HCSC) clearinghouse network must complete a Business Associate Addendum with HCSC. A Business Associate Addendum allows HCSC to continue to perform Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) functions on behalf of the provider and assure that PHI will be appropriately safeguarded.

Enclosed is HCSC's Business Associate Addendum. Please review, complete and mail to the address below:

THIN, Inc. / Health Care Service Corporation
Electronic Commerce Services, **RM 25.106**
300 E. Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Be sure to include the following:

- Page 1 – The Health Information Network (THIN) ID number in the right-hand corner. (The THIN ID number is your submitter ID or your receiver ID, whichever is applicable.)
- Page 4 – The Legal Business Name and Address of “Covered Entity”.
- Page 4 – Complete and date the “Covered Entity” section (right-side).

The enclosed information is not intended to replace advice and counsel from your attorney.

Thank you for your continued support of THIN. Be sure to keep a copy of the signed document for your records. If you have any questions, please contact our EDI Hotline at 312/653-7954.

Respectfully,

Lorene O. Cherry
EDI Senior Manager
THIN, Inc.

300 East Randolph Street ? Chicago, Illinois 60601-5099 ? 312/653-7954 ? www.bcbsil.com

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