

Regulatory Review: Special Annual Meeting Edition

As part of the Advanced Management track at the Annual Meeting in August, Adrienne Dresevic, Esq. and Jessica L. Gustafson, Esq. of The Health Law Partners, P.C. in Southfield, MI will present “**Recent Developments and Key Legal Issues Impacting Radiology Practices.**” (See <http://www.ahraonline.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=AnnualMeetingWednesday> for more information.)

This presentation will address recent developments and key legal issues impacting radiology practices. The presentation will outline recent developments in federal laws and regulations impacting radiology practices, of which all radiology practices should be mindful. These developments include updates to the Federal Stark law; regulations contained in the Medicare physician fee schedule impacting radiology practices; and proposed regulations, which also may impact radiology practices. Radiology practices also must be cognizant of the legal implications of joint ventures, which will also be discussed. The speakers will also address the latest developments and enforcement trends regarding corporate practice of medicine doctrine, as well as an overview of the Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) program. By 2010, this Medicare auditing program will be operational nationwide. Further, there are other general compliance concerns of which all healthcare providers must be aware, such as documentation, coding, and billing. The presentation also will set forth proactive compliance strategies that providers can implement.

Link recently spoke to presenters Adrienne Dresevic and Jessica L. Gustafson to get a feel for what attendees can expect from the presentation.

Link: What inspired you to present on this topic?

Adrienne Dresevic and Jessica L. Gustafson: This has been a year of many changes in the healthcare regulatory environment. Specifically, given all of the changes to healthcare law as part of the healthcare reform legislation passed this year (eg, changes to the In-Office Ancillary Services Exception of the Federal Stark law, expansion to the False Claims Act, etc) and given the increased auditing activity all providers and suppliers are confronting, developing an understanding of key legal issues have never been more important. We believe that understanding the key legal issues impacting radiology prac-

tices is of the utmost importance during this age of increased regulatory scrutiny.

L: Why is your topic relevant to our members?

AD & JLG: We believe this topic, outlining recent developments in the law and key legal issues impacting radiology practices, will be of significant interest to AHRA membership. The presentation will discuss many of the recent changes in the law and the impact that these changes will have on radiology practices. The presentation will provide practical tips for compliance with healthcare laws and regulations.

L: How might your presentation impact an attendee’s job and/or organization?

AD & JLG: After attending the presentation, it is our hope that radiology practices will have a renewed focus on healthcare compliance. The presentation will provide practical tips that radiology practices can adopt and implement for purposes of compliance with health care laws and regulations. For example, the presentation will provide information and tips regarding the Federal Stark law and its recent changes, the Anti-Kickback statute (as amended as part of the healthcare reform law), other key legal issues, and a description of recent Medicare, Medicaid, and other third party payor auditing activity and compliance tips.

L: What 5 words would you use to describe your presentation?

AD & JLG: Practical, timely tips to enhance compliance.

L: How can attendees prepare for your session in order to get the most out of it?

AD & JLG: No formal preparation is necessary for this presentation. However, attendees may wish to consider any questions they may have about healthcare law as issues arise in their respective practices. This will be an opportunity to ask those questions and receive answers.

L: What do you think attendees will be most surprised to learn from your presentation?

AD & JLG: Attendees may be surprised to learn that some of the auditors conducting healthcare audits are compensated on

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a contingency-fee basis.

L: If attendees were to remember one thing about your presentation, what would you most like it to be?

AD & JLG: It is our hope that attendees take away from our presentation the importance of compliance in today's highly regulated healthcare environment. A renewed focus on compliance can help a radiology practice withstand governmental scrutiny, should it occur.