

**New Mexico HIPAA Conference**  
**Session 225**  
**Security Standards in New Mexico: Where Should We Collaborate?**  
**Where MUST We Collaborate?**

**Speaker:**

Jo Previte, Presbyterian Healthcare Services, Chairman of the NM CHILI Security Workgroup

**Moderator:**

Ralph Whiteaker, St. Joseph Healthcare System

**Scribe:**

Leslie Shainline, New Mexico Medical Review Association

**A. New Mexico CHILI Security Workgroup**

- Formed about one year ago, this workgroup is intended to help with details regarding how to be HIPAA compliant.
- They meet once a month and offer video conferencing for out of town participants.
- The security regulations have not yet been finalized, but security will be necessary to support the privacy regulations. Therefore they are addressing issues that are outlined in the draft regulations.
- Anyone interested in joining the security workgroup should talk to Jo Previte.

**B. The three portions of the security regulations**

1. *Technical Aspects:*

Having passwords that expire and automatic log off on computers are examples of simple things that can be implemented that will help with compliance.

2. *Policies, both clinical and operational:*

75% of HIPAA compliance involves policy and procedures. Only 25% is technical. This is true of the security regulations as well. They are very policy driven.

3. *Physical plant issues:*

- Computer screen placement, particularly in the reception area. Can patients read what is on the screen?
- Where do you store medical records and is the area locked?
- How do you deal with terminated employees? Do you get assigned keys back from them? Do you change key pad codes routinely?

The building layout and design can create additional problems with security compliance. However, HIPAA intends to be reasonable in it's requests for compliance.

A practical approach should be used when interpreting the HIPAA regulations. Use legal council to help with the interpretation.

**C. Areas for Collaboration as identified by the NM CHILI Security Workgroup**

- Job descriptions
- Staffing strategies
- Education
- Assessment approaches/tools
- Regulation interpretation
- Tools
- Policies
- Disaster recovery planning/strategies

They have created a listserv to help disseminate information. They also post education presentations and tools on the NM CHILI web site, [www.healthlinknm.org/nmchhili](http://www.healthlinknm.org/nmchhili) for organizations in NM to download.

**D. Other areas for Collaboration in the Security Workgroup:**

**Suggestions from audience participants**

- Consistency between organizations
- Policy Framework
  - User log in method
  - non-employee log in
  - extranet
- Audit tracking
- Culture change
- Data encryption
- Incident response