



Memorandum

Date: October 4, 2010

To: Minnesota Stroke Registry hospitals

From: Albert W. Tsai, PhD, MPH – Principal Investigator, Minnesota Stroke Registry

Re: Discontinuing collection of protected health information data

Dear Colleagues:

The Minnesota Stroke Registry program will no longer ask you to collect and separately store protected health information as part of your data collection efforts.

Since the beginning of the program in 2008, we have been requesting that abstractors collect personal identifier data (i.e., patient name, birthdate, zip code, medical record number) and store these data in a separate and secure file. Our hope has been to someday obtain authority to utilize these data, enabling us to make direct linkages between the Minnesota Stroke Registry dataset with other health-related datasets. We have not collected any of these identifier data from you at any time; rather we simply asked you to collect and securely store these data at your facility.

We know that collecting this information and keeping this file adds time to your work. Since we are uncertain of our ability to obtain the appropriate authorizations to collect these data from you in the near future, we want to burden you with this additional task no longer. As such, we no longer request that you collect and store these data, effective immediately.

All other guidance for our normal data collection remains without change. We do ask that you store your current data file should we ever be authorized to go back and conduct studies utilizing those data. We will inform you if we are given authorization to collect these identifier data in the future.

You may have received a document entitled “Data Submission File Format Guidance” (Version 2.0, October 2009). This document is voided and no longer effective immediately.

Thank you for your effort collecting these data until now, and I apologize for any inconvenience that you may have experienced.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert W. Tsai".

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