

HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletin

July 27, 2018

Administrative Simplification: Guidance, Information, and More

The National Standards Group (NSG) is responsible for administering HIPAA Administrative Simplification by promulgating regulations pursuant to the HIPAA Administrative Simplification laws. Compliance with Administrative Simplification regulations saves providers and health plans time and money, enables patients to more quickly receive the care they need, and allows providers more time to focus on people, not paperwork.

This HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletin is to let you know that NSG is launching a new line of tools designed to help HIPAA covered entities and their business associates comply with the regulatory requirements for the HIPAA transactions. These new tools will be identified as “Go-to” documents, and there will be three different types: Go-to-Guidance, Go-to-Info, and Go-to-Answers. Each type is described below.

- **“Go-to-Guidance”** is the short name for HIPAA Administrative Simplification Guidance Letters. These Guidance Letters will include important guidance about NSG’s interpretation of the HIPAA Administrative Simplification laws and regulations. Guidance Letters will not include new mandates, requirements, or prohibitions, are not legally binding on covered entities and will not supersede regulations. Though not legally binding, Guidance Letters may be taken into consideration by Administrative Law Judges and other adjudicators.
- **“Go-to-Info”** is the short name for HIPAA Administrative Simplification Information Bulletins. Information Bulletins will share information, address operational and technical issues, and highlight industry best practices, initiatives or related efforts. Information Bulletins will not establish new policy or provide new guidance.
- **“Go-to-Answers”** is the short name for the HIPAA Administrative Simplification Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which will cover topics such as statutes, regulations, policies, and technical or operational issues. Go-to-Answers will not establish new policy or provide new guidance, but will help the inquirer to locate or better understand existing statute, regulation, policy, and guidance. Go-to-Answers may also provide brief operational or technical information.

NSG will continue to provide information through its usual venues and channels, e.g. conferences, meetings, via social media, on our website and through individual correspondence and discussions. Information provided in these or similar ways, like that provided in “Go-to-Answers,” will not include new policy, mandates or prohibitions, but will provide previously released information in enhanced formats for greater focus and clarity.

Getting Go-To-Guidance, Go-To-Info and Go-To-Answers

NSG will post all Administrative Simplification Go-to-Guidance, Go-to-Info and Go-to-Answers to our website at go.cms.gov/AdminSimp. NSG has also created a new mailbox to receive questions, comments and feedback on Guidance Letters, Bulletins, and FAQs, and any other related matters. The address for that mailbox is AdministrativeSimplification@cms.hhs.gov.