

HEALTH ETHICS TRUST

214 SOUTH PAYNE STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA • 22314
TEL (703) 683-7916 • FAX (703) 299-8836

For Immediate Release:

May 8, 2007

Contact:

Mark Pastin, PhD
Health Ethics Trust
214 S. Payne Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: 703-683-7916
Fax: 703-299-8836
www.complianceprograms.com

Alexandria, VA.....The Health Ethics Trust announces an important advancement in compliance program assessment and certification.

Over the past decade the Health Ethics Trust has assessed the compliance plans of hundreds of health care entities including hospitals, health systems, health plans, and vendors. These assessments are built upon recognized standards and the results of the annual Healthcare Best Compliance Practices Forum. The Forum itself has gathered information on healthcare compliance practices since 1995. The Trust also employs an empirically validated, highly reliable survey instrument with a record of accuracy for more than 20 years.

Trust President Mark Pastin stated that, “Despite these efforts, we continue to see a wide variety of methodologies employed in the name of assessing compliance program effectiveness. Some of the firms conducting these assessments seem to be conflicted. They find that what your compliance program needs to be effective is, per coincidence, just what they happen to provide. The cost of a compliance program assessments is often prohibitive.”

To address these concerns, the Health Ethics Trust, a division of the Council of Ethical Organizations, formed an independent body, the **Commission on Compliance Program Effectiveness (CCPE)**, charged with conducting compliance assessments according to recognized standards and offering a responsible certification of compliance program effectiveness – the CCPE Certification. The Commission is run by working compliance professionals and academicians who agree not to provide services to assessment clients of the Commission for a minimum period of three years after completion of a certification assessment. Commission Assessors are compliance professionals .

The Commission is committed to making compliance program assessment a publicly accessible process with periodic open comment periods on standards and methodologies. The goal is to make compliance program assessment contributory to other activities related to other recognized quality certifications such as those overseen by JCAHO, NCQA, and URAC as well as the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards.