

September 11, 2008

St. Joseph's Healthcare System Contractors and Agents

Re: The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA)
Revised Administration Policy #1623

To whom it may concern:

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) requires that the entire health care industry, including health care providers and hospitals, have compliance policies that inform contractors which furnish "Medicaid health care items or services" and their employees about federal and state anti-fraud and false claims laws and whistleblower protections.

If you are such a contractor, we have established a written policy and are making it available to you, as required by the DRA. You and your employees can access the recently revised DRA policy via the internet at: <http://www.stjosephshealth.org/index.html>, are required to abide by the policy as to the work you and your employees perform for the St. Joseph's Health Care System, and are required to disseminate these policies and make them available to all of your employees.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) indicates that these contractors, which furnish Medicaid health care items or services include, but are not limited to, all contract therapist, physicians (including, but not limited to, house staff, hospitalists, and independent contractors), pharmacies, vendors performing billing and coding functions, or vendors involved in the monitoring of health care provided by the entity.

We are committed to providing the highest quality care to our patients and conducting our business with integrity and in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. To this end, we have a Compliance Program in place that applies to all contractors and agents and their employees. You can access the SJHS's Code of Conduct Policy via the internet link listed above. The Code of Conduct is your guide to our compliance standards and expectations and is intended to be a day-to-day tool. It helps us tell right from wrong in the workplace and contains practical information and resources to utilize if confronted with a potential compliance issue.

If you have any questions about our Compliance Program, please feel free to contact the Healthcare System's Corporate Compliance/Chief Privacy Officer at 973-754-3565

Sincerely,



William A. McDonald
President and CEO