



TO OUR PATIENTS AND THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

You may have seen published reports of the implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rules which go into effect on April 14th. This federal law will require health care providers to define and improve the methods used to safeguard private medical information. Indeed, if you have visited your private physician or used a local hospital or clinic, you may already have received specific information as to how the HIPAA privacy rules are to be applied.

The Staff Counsel, the California State University, has advised us that the HIPAA rules and regulations do not apply to *University Health Services*. Rather, other federal and state laws apply, particularly the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which covers all educational records of the University.

Please be assured, however, that your privacy is our foremost concern. Unless specifically required by law or court order, we do not ordinarily release any private medical information without the consent of the patient to whom the records pertain. Moreover, we are making further efforts to restrict access to your private medical information, whether in paper or electronic form, only to those who need such information to provide the most effective medical and psychological care to you.

Should you have further questions, please contact us at 916.278.6461