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TERI G. FONTENOT
President/CEO
Woman's Hospital Foundation



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All Contractors, Agents and Employees

RE: Federal and State False Claims Acts

Dear Contractors, Agents, and Employees:

Louisiana's Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law requires Woman's Hospital to let you know that the Federal Deficit Reduction Act mandates any health care facility that receives or makes an annual payment of five million dollars under the State Medicaid Plan to have detailed written policies about the Federal False Claims Act for their employees, agents and contractors. The following information is being provided to you pursuant to this legal requirement.

Woman's Hospital's compliance policy includes summaries of the Federal false claims acts, 31 USC 3729-3733 and 3801-3812 as well as Louisiana's Medical Assistance Programs Integrity Law, (MAPIL), LSA-RS 46:437-440. Violations of these laws include but are not limited to:

- knowingly presenting to the Federal Government a false or fraudulent claim for payment;
- knowingly creating a false record;
- knowingly using a false statement to conceal, avoid, or decrease an obligation to pay money or transmit property to the government;
- conspiring with others to get a false or fraudulent claim paid by the government.

The false claims acts also cover fraud involving any federally funded contract or program, with the exception of tax fraud.

Administrative guidelines for handling violations of the false claims laws are contained at 31 USC Sections 3801-3812. This part of the false claims law includes definitions of false claims and statements; provisions for hearings on liability determinations; subpoena authority; judicial review; right of administrative offset; etc. Section 3802 warns that any person who makes a claim that the person knows is false or omits a material fact regarding payment for services shall be subject to civil penalties. Fines and penalties range from \$5500 to \$11000 per offense, and the statutory amounts are adjusted for inflation. In addition, violations of the false claims law may result in damages of three times the amount lost by the government as a result of the fraud.

Individuals who report suspected violations of the false claims law ("whistle-blowers") may share in a percentage of a government recovery in a false claims act action or settlement. The false claims acts protect these individuals from discharge, demotion, harassment, or other discrimination by their employers as a result of their reports of violations of the false claims acts.

Woman's Hospital's Administrative Policy Number 160 has written procedures regarding the detection and prevention of fraud, waste and abuse. Links to MAPIL and Woman's Hospital's Administrative Policy # 160 can be found at www.womans.org/contractors. Woman's Hospital Administrative Policy Number 160 includes information on Woman's Hospital's training, auditing, correcting, reporting, and disciplining.

Suspected abuse or fraud may be reported to the Office of Inspector General's hotline (800) 447-8477, Louisiana's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit's hotline (888) 799-6885 or Woman's Hospital's hotline (225) 924-8757.

Sincerely,

Teri Fontenot
President and CEO
Woman's Hospital