



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**HIPAAANSWERS IS FIRST TO INCLUDE STATE-SPECIFIC  
PREEMPTION CONTENT FOR HIPAA PRIVACY RULE**

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN, November 5, 2002** – HIPAAnswers(TM) today announced an initiative addressing state-specific preemption of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) privacy regulations. Announced at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, this initiative is the first of its kind in the on-line HIPAA compliance assistance market.

According to HIPAA, providers must determine whether to comply with their state’s privacy laws, the federal privacy law regulation, or both. HIPAA provides a federal “floor” or basic foundation for medical privacy. Where state laws are more stringent the state laws preempt, or take precedence over, the federal laws. For example, some state laws shelter minors’ medical records against disclosure to parents or guardians. Federal regulations don’t require this privacy protection, but in states with such a law on the books, the stricter state privacy regulation prevails. The addition of this sort of state-specific preemption content furthers the position of HIPAAnswers as the best choice for small- to medium-sized entities seeking a cost-effective, complete and accurate way to comply with HIPAA.

The challenge for a provider is to determine where and how the state privacy laws preempt HIPAA privacy regulations. Through an innovative “interview and implement” approach, HIPAAnswers is uniquely able to assist the provider in determining and resolving their preemption issues. Scott A. Thiele, CEO, stated, “As the leading national HIPAA compliance assistance solution, HIPAAnswers understands the challenge presented by privacy preemption across the country. We have listened to customers in more than 35 states, and we are building on our leadership position by expanding our preemption content.”

HIPAAAnswers is the leading Web-based subscription service for complying with HIPAA. HIPAAnswers assists healthcare providers including hospitals, long-term care facilities and physician practices comply with HIPAA regulations through its five-step compliance process: education, assessment, planning, implementation and updates. HIPAAnswers is based in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. To find out more about HIPAAnswers please call 866.326.6785 or go to [www.hipaanswers.com](http://www.hipaanswers.com).

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