

FRAUD, WASTE, & ABUSE,

What you need to know...



Are you familiar with UConn Health's policy regarding Fraud, Waste and Abuse Prevention in Healthcare?

UConn Health is subject to many state and federal laws and regulations, several of which are aimed at preventing and combatting fraud, waste and abuse involving federal and state funds in healthcare programs. **UConn Health's policy** was established to meet the requirements of the federal Deficit Reduction Act ("DRA"). The DRA requires UConn Health to provide education to employees and applicable contractors on healthcare fraud, waste and abuse, including but not limited to the federal and state False Claims Acts. The Office of Healthcare Compliance and Privacy provides such education and guidance to the UConn Health community.

What is Fraud, Waste and Abuse?

FRAUD

Fraud is an intentional misrepresentation of information for unauthorized financial gain or to derive some other benefit.

WASTE

Waste is the misuse of resources or practices that result in needless expenditure of state and/or federal funds. It often stems from individuals being uninformed or careless, or from poor decision-making.

ABUSE

Abuse is an improper use of funds, resources or authority that results in higher costs to the federal or state government, including UConn Health. It is often the result of "bending the rules," or ignoring established policies or procedures.

What is the federal False Claims Act (FCA)?

The federal False Claims Act prohibits any person from knowingly presenting, or causing to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment to the federal government. "Knowingly" means you have actual knowledge that the information is false, or you are acting in deliberate ignorance or reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information.

The FCA permits a person with knowledge of the fraud to file a lawsuit on behalf of the government against those that committed the fraud, and in certain circumstances, to receive a portion of the money recovered by the government.

What is the Connecticut False Claims Act?

Connecticut has its own False Claims Act that applies to fraud against Connecticut Medicaid and other medical assistance programs administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services. Like the federal False Claims Act, the Connecticut False Claims Act permits a person with knowledge of the fraud to file a lawsuit on behalf of the State against those that committed the fraud, and in certain circumstances, to receive a portion of the money recovered by the State.

Why do you need to know?

Violators of the False Claims Act, along with other healthcare laws, may be liable to the federal government for civil monetary penalties and may be excluded from participating in federal healthcare programs like Medicare and Medicaid. Hospitals and health systems like UConn Health are generally prohibited from employing or contracting with excluded individuals. This prohibition applies to employees involved in direct patient care as well as to those furnishing certain administrative and management services in areas such as human resources, information technology, finance, and health information management.

Ways you can minimize the opportunity for fraud, waste and abuse:

- Follow established policies and procedures
- Avoid shortcuts or other practices that compromise processes
- Assume responsibility only for activities for which you are authorized
- Ask questions and seek guidance if you are unsure of or uncomfortable with a particular task or activity
- Ensure data is accurate and timely, and verify information provided to you
- Do your part to address potential issues before they become problems and fix processes that are deficient or prone to error

UConn Health is committed to detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. You are part of the solution!

Resources

Click below to view UConn Health's policy. If you have any questions about the policy, or other related requirements, please contact the Office of Healthcare Compliance and Privacy at 860.679.1014 or compliance.officer@uchc.edu
263 Farmington Ave, Farmington, CT 06030

[View the Policy](#)

Test Your

Knowledge

Now that you've engaged with these resources, be sure to take our "test your knowledge" challenge by clicking below.

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