

E-health Code of Ethics Under Way

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The Internet Healthcare Coalition (IHC) held a working summit from January 31 through February 2 to begin the development of an international "e-health Code of Ethics." The summit produced a set of guiding principles to govern the behavior of all health sites on the Internet. The guiding principles are:

- candor and trustworthiness
- quality
- informed consent
- best commercial practices
- best practices for provision of healthcare on the Internet by healthcare professionals

The draft guidelines were released to the public on February 18 and the IHC is soliciting comments from interested parties through April 14. The IHC hopes to release a final draft of the e-health Code of Ethics by May 15, 2000.

For the draft guidelines and a feedback form, visit the IHC Web site at www.ihealthcoalition.org. AHIMA will also be submitting comments to IHC.

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