

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203-1818 ◆ (303) 866-2993 ◆ (303) 866-4411 Fax John W. Hickenlooper, Governor ◆ Susan E. Birch MBA, BSN, RN, Executive Director

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## Dear HCPF Provider or Vendor/Contractor:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act's (HIPAA) Security Rule allows for Electronic Protect Health Information (EPHI) to be sent over an electronic open network (i.e. email) as long as it is adequately protected. Protections must include ensuring that the information is safeguarded from unauthorized access, as well as from malicious modification, during transit. Encryption is the only tool currently available that allows for these protections when emailing EPHI.

Because of this, it is the Department's expectation that PHI being sent by email to our Department staff will be sent in an encrypted manner in order to adequately protect the information and be in compliance with HIPAA.

Please direct any questions you may have on this to me at Erika.bol@state.co.us or 303-866-2958.

Privacy Offic

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing