

*From the Winter 2001 Newsletter*

## **NATIONAL ETHICS NEWS**

### **Announcing New Series of Ethics Hotline Calls**

The VHA National Center for Ethics is pleased to announce a new series of Ethics Hotline Calls for Ethics Advisory Committee (EAC) chairs, members, and other ethics-interested staff. Each call will feature the presentation and discussion of a selected topic, promote networking among participants, and enhance the exchange of information between the National Center for Ethics, HQ personnel, and local EACs in a real-time, interactive format. For more information please [click here](#). Schedule information and call-in numbers are available on the VA intranet. (Sorry, availability is limited to VA intranet users only).

### **New National Medical Privacy Regulations Released**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released the final set of proposed federal regulations protecting the privacy of electronically stored medical records. The regulations were published in the *Federal Register* on December 28, 2000. The HHS Office for Civil Rights has been assigned to enforce this regulation, and will be accepting requests for clarification. For more information on this policy see the *Federal Register* at:

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/> or the HHS web site at: <http://www.hhs.gov>.

### **National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) Scrutinizes Current System for Protecting Research Subjects**

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) has released a draft of their report *Ethical and Policy Issues in Research Involving Human Participants* for public comment. The new report focuses on federal oversight of research involving human subjects, and will include a review of all relevant statutes and regulations, an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of current regulations, and recommendations to ensure that all research involving humans is conducted ethically. For more information, see the NBAC web site at:

<http://www.bioethics.gov>.