## EC.001 – CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

SECTION: ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE LAST REVISION DATE: 10.04.2021

SUBJECT: Code of Business Conduct LAST REVIEW DATE: 10.04.2021

and Ethics

POLICY NUMBER: EC.001 LAST REVIEWED BY: MHN ERMC – Policy &

**Procedure Subcommittee** 

APPROVED BY: Board of Directors

#### I. POLICY

Medical Home Network ("MHN") is committed to conducting business and treating people with the highest standards of honesty, integrity and fairness. The purpose of this Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the "Code of Conduct" or "Code") is to provide basic guidelines for situations in which ethical issues arise. It is not intended to replace good judgment and common sense, but serves as a guide and minimum standard of conduct. This Code is part of a broader set of policies and procedures and the Employee Handbook. This Code is not intended to supersede or alter those policies and procedures.

If you have questions about how to handle a situation or ever believe that we are failing to live up to our commitment, let us know. Speak to the Chief Compliance Officer, the President and CEO or contact our Compliance Hotline at 1.800.401.8004. Calls to the Hotline can be made anonymously, if you wish. MHN prohibits retaliation against any employee for good faith reporting or participating in an investigation of a possible Code of Conduct violation. You may also report compliance concerns to the Compliance Hotline via email, filing an online report or fax; see below for full hotline contact information.

### II. PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

## A. Your Obligations

MHN expects all employees, volunteers, officers and our Board of Directors to know and follow our Code of Conduct. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action – up to and including termination of employment or our business relationship.

The actions of every person associated with MHN can affect our reputation and the integrity of the organization. It is therefore essential that you take the time to review this Code and develop a working knowledge of its provisions.

You are required to complete a form attesting to compliance with the Code upon becoming an employee, volunteer, officer or director and on an annual basis thereafter.

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## At all times, you are expected to:

- Avoid conflicts between personal and professional interests where possible;
- Comply with MHN's Conflict of Interest Policy and pursue the ethical handling of conflicts (whether actual or apparent) when conflicts or the appearance of conflicts are unavoidable;
- Provide accurate and complete information in the course of fulfilling your obligations;
- Communicate information in a timely manner;
- Provide full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in reports required to be filed by MHN with regulators, government agencies and in other public communications made by our organization;
- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and our policies;
- Seek guidance where necessary from MHN's Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, or legal counsel;
- Promptly report any violations of this Code to our Chief Compliance Officer, President &
   CEO, legal counsel or to the Compliance Hotline; and
- Be accountable personally for adherence to this Code.

### WHO DO I CONTACT FOR GUIDANCE OR TO REPORT CONCERNS?

If you believe a situation may involve or lead to a violation of this Code, you have an affirmative duty to seek guidance and report your concerns.

- Seek guidance and/or disclose concerns or violations of this Code to the President and CEO, Chief Compliance Officer, legal counsel or another member of the Compliance team, or to the Compliance Hotline.
- Report audit or accounting concerns to the President & CEO,
   Compliance Hotline, or the Board of Directors

#### **ANONYMOUS COMPLIANCE HOTLINE**

1.800.401.8004

(215) 689-3885 (fax)

www.lighthouse-services.com/mhnchicago reports@lighthouse-services.com

Don't forget to include the name of the company if making a report by fax or email.

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### **CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Gail Vijuk gvijuk@mhnchicago.org | 312.967.3139

#### **SECURITY OFFICER**

Scott Owens sowens@mhnchicago.org | 414.215.9020

### **CONTRACT & COMPLIANCE MANAGER**

Lynn Robertson
Irobertson@mhnchicago.org | 312.967.1918

#### MHN LEGAL COUNSEL

Karen Mandelbaum kmandelbaum@ebglaw.com I 202.861.5322

## B. Compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

In carrying out your duties as an employee of MHN, you are required to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Violation of laws and regulations may subject you and MHN to civil and/or criminal penalties. To assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations, we have established various policies and procedures, including those set forth in our Employee Manual. You have an obligation to comply with these policies and procedures. Certain legal obligations and policies that are especially important are summarized below.

Legal and compliance requirements are especially complex in the health care industry. To comply with the law, you must learn enough about the federal, state and local laws that affect your work at MHN so that you can spot potential issues and get proper guidance on the right way to proceed. When there is any doubt about the lawfulness of any activity, you should seek advice from our Chief Compliance Officer or legal counsel.

### C. Conflicts of Interest

MHN expects you to exercise good judgment and the highest ethical standards in your activities on behalf of our organization, as well as in your private activities outside of the organization. Particular care should be taken to ensure that no detriment to MHN's interests (or the appearance of a detriment) may result from a conflict between MHN's interests and any personal or business interests you may have. In particular, you have an obligation to avoid any activity, agreement, business investment or interest or situation that might conflict or appear to conflict with your obligations to MHN. If it is not feasible to avoid a potential conflict, you must disclose the situation

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to the Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, legal counsel or a member of the Board of Directors, so the management team, legal counsel, and, if necessary, the MHN Board of Directors can ensure that the potential conflict is evaluated, managed and documented appropriately.

It is not possible to describe or anticipate all the circumstances that might involve a conflict of interest, but the following are some questions you can ask to help determine whether a potential conflict exists:

- Does the situation make it difficult to perform your work objectively or effectively?
- Would you, or someone associated with you (for example, a friend, family member or business in which you have an interest) receive benefits because of your position or relationship with MHN?
- Would you or someone associated with you benefit from a contract or transaction with MHN?

In all situations where even the appearance of a conflict exists, you must disclose the nature of the conflict to the Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, legal counsel or a member of the Board of Directors. We will work with you to determine what to do next. Managers, officers and others who have the ability to exercise significant influence over MHN are required to comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy.

## D. Community, Political, Charitable and Other Outside Activities

We encourage participation in community activities. However, employees should avoid any outside personal interest or activity (whether or not for profit) that will interfere with their duties to MHN. As a guideline, such activities should not encroach on time or attention employees should be devoting to our business, imply MHN's sponsorship or support without express approval by MHN, or adversely affect the reputation of our organization.

No employee shall publicly use any affiliation of MHN in connection with the promotion of partisan politics, religious matters or positions on any issue not in conformity with the official position of MHN.

## E. Protection and Proper Use of MHN Assets

You have a personal responsibility to protect MHN assets from misuse or misappropriation. MHN assets include tangible assets, such as products, equipment and facilities, as well as intangible assets, such as intellectual property, trade secrets, reputation and business information (including any non-public information learned as an employee, volunteer, officer or director of MHN).

### 1. Theft or Misuse of Assets

MHN's assets may only be used for business purposes and such other purposes as are approved by MHN. You must not take, make use of or knowingly misappropriate

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Company assets for personal use, for use by another, or for an improper or illegal purpose. You are not permitted to remove, dispose of or destroy anything of value belonging to MHN without express prior written consent, including physical items and electronic information.

### 2. Confidential Information and Privacy

We are entrusted with managing and securing a great deal of sensitive, protected and confidential information. The legal, business and personal consequences of failing to maintain the confidentiality and security of that information can be very severe. You must not use or disclose any protected or confidential information to any person or entity outside of our Company, either during or after service with MHN, except in accordance with our written policies, procedures or authorizations or as may be otherwise required by law or regulation. You may not use confidential information for your own personal benefit or the benefit of persons or entities outside of MHN.

Confidential information includes all non-public information learned as an MHN employee, volunteer, officer or director. Confidential information may be defined differently in some of our contractual arrangements, but in the context of this Code of Conduct it includes, but is not limited to:

- Protected Health Information ("PHI"), which must be handled in accordance with state and federal laws, as well as MHN's policies and procedures (see Appendix 1: HIPAA Definitions);
- Non-public information that might be (1) of use to suppliers, vendors, joint venture partners or others, (2) of interest to the press, or (3) harmful to MHN or any of its constituents, if disclosed;
- Non-public information relating to our operations, including financial information, donor lists or information, mailing lists and any information relating to fundraising (including fundraising efforts, plans, ideas and proposals), minutes, reports and materials of the Board of Directors and its committees, and other documents identified as confidential;
- Non-public information about discussions and deliberations, relating to business issues and decisions, between and among employees, volunteers, officers and managers or provider participants; and
- Non-public information about fellow employees, managers, officers or volunteers, or any other individuals about whom MHN may hold information from time to time.

### F. Outside Communication

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MHN is committed to providing full, fair and accurate disclosure in all public communications, in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and rules. Consistent with this commitment, employees may not answer questions from the media, donors, potential donors or any other members of the public unless specifically authorized to do so. If you receive such an inquiry, you should obtain the name of the person and their contact information and immediately notify the President and CEO.

As individuals we all have rights to speak out on issues, including in a public forum, whether at a town hall or on a social media application or website. This Code and MHN's policies (including the Network Use policies summarized below) are not intended to restrict communications or actions protected or required by state or federal law. However, when you speak as an individual it is critical that you do not give the appearance of speaking or acting on MHN's behalf and that you do not speak about confidential Company information. You should be especially aware of the broad reach of social media applications and websites, and that such media is increasingly being monitored by donors, customers, competitors, regulators and colleagues. Your comments may be attributed to MHN, even though you did not intend for your comments to be attributed that way.

Additionally, even seemingly insignificant work-related comments carry the risk of inadvertent disclosures of confidential information. Sharing confidential information in social media sites is strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. In some cases, improper disclosures of confidential information can also be the basis for severe civil and/or criminal liability.

## G. Network Use, Integrity & Security

MHN reserves the right to monitor or review any and all data and information contained on any employee's or officer's computer or other electronic device issued by MHN. In addition, MHN reserves the right to monitor or review an employee's or officer's use of the Internet while using MHN-issued computers, Company email or any other MHN electronic systems without prior notice.

Access to MHN systems will be revoked and disciplinary action may be taken in the event that such systems are used to commit illegal acts or to violate our non-discrimination, harassment, solicitation or privacy and security policies, proprietary information terms of this Code, the MHN Employee Manual, or other MHN policies and procedures.

In order to maintain systems integrity and protect MHN's network, no employee should divulge any passwords used to access any MHN computer, database, or documents. Any suspected breach of MHN's network security systems should be reported to the MHN Security Officer and President and CEO immediately.

E-mail and downloading from the internet are prime sources of viruses and other malicious software. No one may download or install any software or shareware to their hard drive that is not

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expressly authorized or approved by the MHN Security Officer. In addition, employees may not accept the terms or conditions of website agreements without first obtaining approval from the MHN President and CEO or legal counsel. Please refer to our security policies for additional information.

No employee or officer should engage in the unauthorized use, copying, distribution or alteration of computer software, whether obtained from outside sources or developed internally. All software, including "shareware," contains terms of use that must be adhered to.

## **H.** Illegal Payments

No illegal payments of any kind are to be made to any local, state, or federal government officials of the United States (or any other country, territory, or municipality) at any time or under any circumstances. Moreover, no funds or other assets of MHN are to be paid, directly or indirectly, to government officials or persons acting on their behalf, or to representatives of other businesses for the purpose of influencing decisions or actions with respect to MHN's activities. Kickbacks to or from any person are prohibited.

Health care laws and regulations regarding payments that can be perceived as improper or kickbacks are complicated and often are counter-intuitive. Many activities that are considered normal business practices in other industries (including some entertainment and marketing activities) can be grounds for severe sanctions under federal and state health care laws. Please pay close attention to MHN compliance and training materials regarding this complicated area of the law; when in doubt, ask for guidance.

- Under <u>no</u> circumstance is it acceptable for you to offer, give, solicit or receive any form of bribe, kickback, payoff or improper inducement.
- Any question as to whether a gift, payment, inducement or activity might be considered improper must be discussed with our legal counsel.
- You may not, under any circumstances, use agents, consultants, independent contractors or other representatives to do indirectly what you could not do directly under this Code or applicable law, rules and regulations.

## I. Maintaining a Safe, Healthy, and Affirmative Workplace

As noted in our Employee Manual and other policies and procedures, MHN is an equal opportunity employer and bases its recruitment, employment, development and promotion decisions solely on a person's ability and potential in relation to the needs of the job. We comply with local, state and federal employment laws, and make reasonable job-related

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accommodations for any qualified employee or officer with a disability when we are notified by the employee that an accommodation is required.

MHN is committed to a workplace that is free from sexual, racial, or other unlawful harassment, and free from threats or acts of violence or physical intimidation. Abusive, harassing or other offensive conduct is unacceptable, whether verbal, physical or visual. If you have witnessed harassment or threatening or violent behavior taking place or believe that you have been harassed or threatened with or subjected to physical violence in or related to the workplace, you must report the incident to the Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, the Compliance Hotline, or to our legal counsel, so that MHN can arrange for it to be investigated. All efforts will be made to handle the investigation confidentially.

We will not tolerate the possession, use or distribution of offensive materials on Company property, or the use of MHN's computers, communications systems, or other equipment to obtain or view such materials. All employees and officers must promptly contact the Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, our legal counsel, or the Compliance Hotline about the existence of offensive materials on the company's systems or premises so that appropriate action may be taken, including notifying the proper authorities, if necessary.

MHN is committed to providing a drug-free work environment. The illegal possession, distribution, or use of any controlled substances on Company premises or at Company functions is strictly prohibited. Similarly, reporting to work under the influence of any illegal drug or alcohol and the abuse of alcohol or medications in the workplace violates this Code.

All accidents, injuries, or concerns about unsafe equipment, practices, conditions or other potential hazards should be immediately reported to the Human Resources Department, compliance hotline, Chief Compliance Officer or President and CEO.

## J. Accounting Practices, Books, and Records and Record Retention

Honest and accurate recording and reporting of information is critical to our ability to make responsible business decisions and maintain compliance with regulations and the commitments of our contracts. You have a strict obligation to provide accurate information in MHN records.

You are expected to support MHN's efforts in fully and fairly disclosing the financial condition of the organization in compliance with applicable accounting principles, laws, rules and regulations. You are also expected to support our commitment to making full, fair, accurate, timely and understandable disclosure in our reports filed with regulatory agencies and other communications. Our financial statements and the books and records on which they are based must accurately reflect all transactions and conform to all legal and accounting requirements and our system of internal controls.

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All employees, volunteers, officers and managers have a responsibility to ensure that the Company's accounting records do not contain any false or misleading entries.

We do not tolerate any intentional misclassification of transactions as to accounts, departments or accounting periods and, in particular:

- All accounting records, as well as reports produced from those records, are to be kept and presented in accordance with law and are to comply with generally accepted accounting principles;
- All records are to fairly and accurately reflect the transactions or occurrences to which they relate;
- All records are to fairly and accurately reflect in reasonable detail MHN's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses;
- No accounting records are to contain any false or misleading entries;
- All transactions are to be supported by accurate documentation in reasonable detail and recorded in the proper account and in the proper accounting period; and
- Our system of internal accounting controls, including compensation controls, must be followed at all times.

Always record data in a timely and accurate manner. This protects MHN's resources and meets the expectations of the people who rely on the accuracy of Company records to perform their jobs. Falsifying business records is a serious offense, which may result in criminal prosecution, civil action and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. If you are authorized to make expenditures or enter into transactions on behalf of the Company, you must ensure that the applicable records comply with our accounting and purchasing policies and that all transactions are recorded properly.

Similarly, you should accurately and truthfully complete all records used to determine compensation or expense reimbursement. This includes, among other items, reporting hours worked (including overtime, if applicable) and reimbursable expenses (including travel and meals).

Compliance with the HIM.027 - Data Retention & Destruction Policy and Procedures and the Record Retention Schedule (Appendix 9) is mandatory. Destroying or altering a document with the intent to impair the document's integrity or availability for use in any potential official proceeding is a crime. Destruction of records may only take place in compliance with MHN's Data Retention & Destruction Policy and Procedures. Documents relevant to any pending, threatened or anticipated litigation, investigation or audit shall not be destroyed for any reason. If you believe that MHN records are being improperly altered or destroyed, you should report it to the Chief Compliance Officer, President and CEO, our legal counsel, or to the Compliance Hotline immediately.

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#### K. VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE

Alleged violations of this Code will be reviewed and investigated by our Chief Compliance Officer and legal counsel or, in appropriate circumstances, by the MHN Board of Directors. Violations of this Code will be subject to disciplinary action. Failure to comply with MHN's Code of Conduct, policies and procedures or applicable laws may result in consequences including suspension of work duties, diminution of responsibilities or demotion, and termination of employment or board service.

#### III. FORMS

MHN Annual Acknowledgement of Policies & Procedures

### **IV. RELATED POLICIES**

- MHN Employee Manual
- EC.002 Code of Conduct Distribution and Training
- EC.003 Conflict of Interest
- EC.007 Reporting Compliance Issues
- EC.008 Non-Retaliation
- EC.010 Internal Handling of Hotline Calls
- EC.011 Appropriate Use of Communications Resources
- EC.016 Sexual Harassment
- HIM.009 Permitted Uses & Disclosures of PHI as a Business Associate
- HIM.020 Network System Password
- HIM.026 Network Security
- HIM. 027 –Data Retention and Destruction
- HIM.028 Workstation Use
- OPS.002 Media
- OPS.018 Drug-Free Workplace Policy for All Employees
- Appendix 9 Record Retention Schedule

#### V. REFERENCES AND ACCREDITATION AUTHORITIES

United States Sentencing Commission, <u>Guidelines Manual</u>, §8B2.1 (Nov. 2012), available at <a href="http://www.ussc.gov/Guidelines/2012">http://www.ussc.gov/Guidelines/2012</a> Guidelines/Manual PDF/2012 Guidelines Manual Full.pdf

Office of the Inspector General of the Dep't of Health & Human Services & the American Health Lawyers Association, Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Compliance: A Resource for Health Care Boards of Directors, §4A (Apr. 2003), available at

http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/docs/complianceguidance/040203CorpRespRsceGuide.pdf

## **VI. REVIEW STATEMENT**

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MHN will maintain the status of this activity and conduct audits as appropriate to ensure compliance. This policy will be reviewed every two years or in timely response to changes in local or federal regulations. Modifications to the procedure will be made as needed.

### I. APPROVAL

Originally Ratified by the Medical Home Network Board of Directors as of August 8, 2013.