



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
COMPLIANCE
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Weathering the Winds of Change: *Strategies for Communication, Coding, and Compliance*

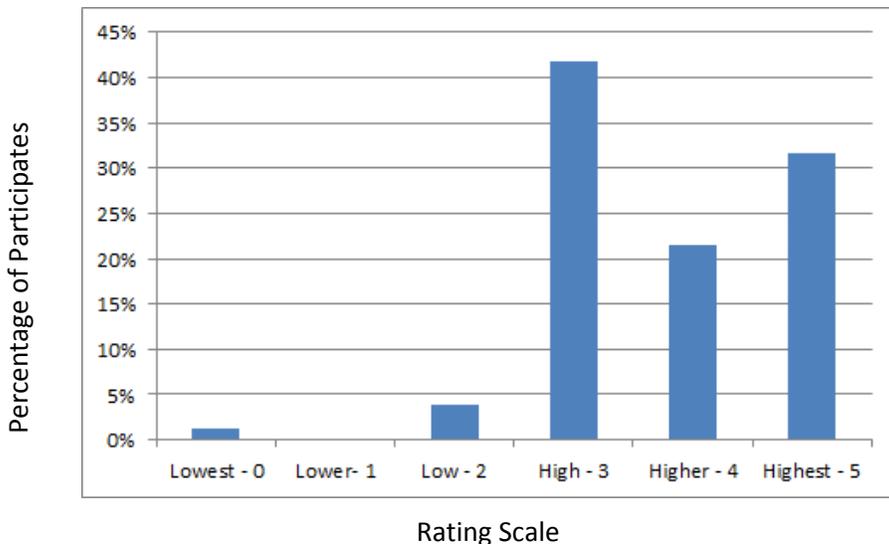
On Tuesday, December 3, 2013, the Compliance Office co-hosted a successful billing and coding seminar, “Weathering the Winds of Change: Strategies for Communication, Coding and Compliance,” with the University Medical Group (UMG) and Practice Management Operations (PMO). Nearly 100 members of the University’s medical billing staff attended the eight-hour seminar, representing every SLUCare department including remote locations such as Anheuser-Busch Institute, University Club Towers, St. Mary’s Hospital, Des Peres and Washington.

The seminar speakers included two external specialists who spoke on billing accurately for provider services (especially high level visits) and what the government scrutinizes when they audit these billed services. Our SLU speakers explained the requirements and implementation of ICD-10, and introduced the audience to the SLU plan to educate coders, billers, auditors, and providers to be sure we are prepared and in compliance by the deadline. The speakers also addressed charge capture, communication skills, elements of professionalism, and an overview of SLUCare operations.

Over the lunch hour, the billers and coders were joined by their department chairpersons or physician representatives to share ideas and support for the necessary work they do each day. The lunch time speaker, SLUCare COO Kathy Merlo, thanked the audience for the 350,000 encounters they entered into the billing system during the last fiscal year and encouraged everyone to continue working together through the upcoming transition to the ICD-10.

The Offices of Compliance, UMG and PMO remain grateful to the 100+ people who shared their workday in learning and discussion with the medical billing and coding professionals of Saint Louis University.

Overall Seminar Evaluation Results



Would you attend an annual seminar focused on issues relevant to billing education?

100% Responded YES

Research Compliance



This month we bring you a case from France in which a married couple is accused of research misconduct. The original article can be found at [Retraction Watch](#).

Two odontology researchers—associate professor Christine Marchal-Sixou and her husband, Michel Sixou, a full professor and former dean of the faculty of dental medicine—at l'université Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, have been charged with plagiarism and complicity respectively. Marchal-Sixou is accused of plagiarizing (in many cases word-for-word, complete with typos) 44 of 150 pages of her doctoral thesis from the thesis of Samer Nuwwareh, a masters student for whom Michel Sixou served as an advisor.

During the trial, Marchal-Sixou argued that because she and Nuwwareh had been working on related topics and collaborated with one another, the work was collective and not owned by any one researcher. However, it was revealed that Marchal-Sixou and her husband shared an email account which gave Marchal-Sixou access to any information Nuwwareh sent to Sixou, his thesis advisor. A €5,000 fine for both Marchal-Sixou and Sixou is sought in the case.

This case provides us with several examples of compliance violations. The foremost example is that of plagiarism. The use of another's intellectual property without permission or proper citation is never appropriate. Not only is it morally wrong, it can lead to embarrassment and potential professional and legal ramifications. Saint Louis University provides numerous resources to help faculty [avoid plagiarism](#). Additionally, you may contact the Compliance Department with questions.

Another prominent example of a compliance violation in this case is Marchal-Sixou and Sixou's shared email account. Accounts and passwords should never be shared, particularly in professional situations. Sharing of accounts and passwords can lead to theft of materials and protected information, among other serious issues. Always keep your accounts and passwords private.

Happy Retirement Lynn Monahan

The Compliance Office bids a fond farewell to our dear friend & colleague, Lynn Monahan. Lynn is retiring from Saint Louis University after twenty-two years of service, most currently in the position of Compliance Coordinator. Lynn assisted in countless billing audits over the years, organizing both the audit plans and coordinating the audit results for reporting. She will be remembered as the University's very first Compliance Director, when her tenacity secured office space and administrative resources necessary to build the foundation of our existing billing compliance program. In retirement, Lynn turns her attention to her beautiful family and yet unnamed volunteer programs, where her abounding love and attention will certainly be appreciated. We, in the Compliance Office will miss Lynn and we wish her the very best.

