

Discussion Questions for Week 1

A "threaded discussion" is a discussion forum that allows students to respond to questions posted by the professor (original responses), which can then be read by other users who add their own comments in response (secondary postings). Unlike chat rooms and other "real-time" interaction forums, threaded discussions do not require different users to be logged on at the same time.

Discussion questions are assigned each week. **Original responses to these questions must be posted by Thursday at 11:59PM.** Original responses must be at least **250 words** and must incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings.

Secondary Responses/Postings: Each student must post **two or more** secondary responses to other students' postings **for each discussion question.** Secondary responses are due by **11:59PM on the Monday following the week in which the questions were assigned.** They must be a minimum of **150 words** and, like original responses, should incorporate concepts from the lectures and assigned readings. Students are encouraged to embark on interactive discussions that go beyond the minimum number of secondary postings.

Although the discussion board is expected to be student-driven, professors will be participating in the discussions as well.

DQ 1.1: Workers' compensation insurance and disability plans are not considered "health plans" under HIPAA, and, therefore, do not qualify as covered entities, despite the fact that they use sensitive health information. In what ways are they different from covered health insurance plans? Do these differences justify their differential treatment? In your answer, consider the goals of HIPAA. You may also want to conduct a quick Internet search to inform your views on this topic.

DQ 1.2: The procurement or banking of blood, sperm, organs, or any other tissue for administration to patients is not considered "health care" under HIPAA. The reason was that people who make these donations are not seeking to be treated, diagnosed, or assessed or otherwise seeking health care for themselves, but are seeking to contribute to the health care of others. Should these activities be considered health care and therefore covered under HIPAA? What do they have in common with activities that are covered under HIPAA? What differences might justify their differential treatment? In your answer, consider the goals of HIPAA. You may also want to conduct a quick Internet search to inform your views on this topic.