

Evidence Solutions, Inc.

And the

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC)

Present:

**Electronic Medical Record Forensics:** 

Trust the Data, Not the Software!

October 25, 2017

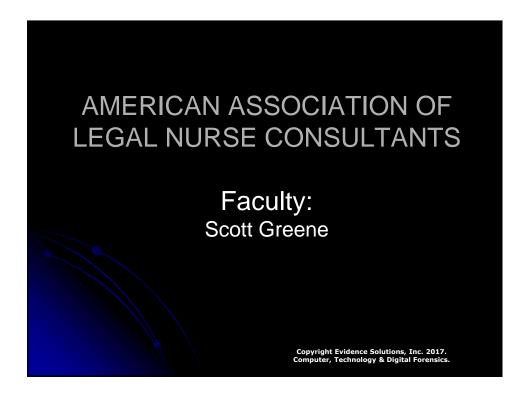
Presented by:

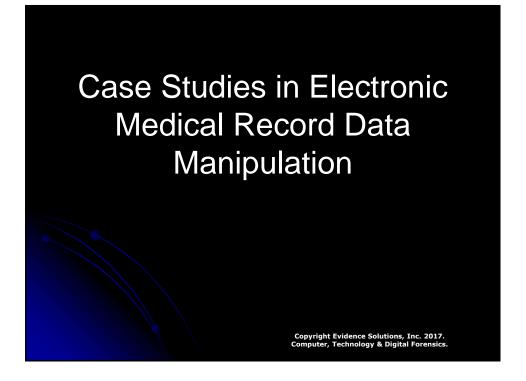
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A Digital Forensics Firm

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### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

 Scott Greene certify that, to the best of his knowledge, no affiliation or relationship of a financial nature with a commercial interest organization has significantly affected his views on the subject on which they are presenting.

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## **Learning Outcomes**

- Introduction / What's Possible, What's Not
- An overview of what is readily available from EMR
- Why metadata, other than the audit log / audit trail, can be important.

# Scott Greene Has been doing computer consulting for over 35 years. Performing: Custom programming Design and optimization Database administration Network and workstation general support For: Service Retail Hospitality Legal Manufacturing Medical Copyright Evidence Solutions, Inc. 2017. Computer, Technology & Digital Forensics.

# How am I going to get there? • A Civil Case: Medical Billing • With a few other things thrown in... • EMR Forensics For Instance Copyright Evidence Solutions, Inc. 2017. Computer, Technology & Digital Forensics.

# Electronically Stored Information in Litigation

- Frequently we are presented with data that appears perfectly normal and supports a particular side to a case.
- Unfortunately software, displays data in a sorted and organized form. Manipulated Data will not be evident when looking at standard reports.

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# Reasons to examine electronic data

- Almost all documents are now 'word processing' documents.
- Nearly all business activities are now computerized
- E-mail communications have surpassed telephone and postal (snail mail) communication.
- Text Messages now overshadow E-mail

### What can data Forensics Tell Us?

- Almost Everything: from the character of the user to their interests, activities, financial health, acquaintances and more.
- Collected from their life online: applications, email systems, web browsers and free space.
- The details from their life, outlook, intelligence and interactions are as individual as any fingerprint.
- All Public & Private business transactions, communications with accomplices, fraud indicators and much more are frequently available.



## Billing Case

- Plaintiff Company:
  - Contracted to bill for a high end medical specialist with his own surgical facility.
  - Maintained:
    - That they properly billed for all services.
    - The did so in a timely manner.

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## Billing Case

- Defendant Doctor/Surgical Facility
  - Maintained that the Plaintiff did not bill timely
  - Determined that the Plaintiff chose to concentrate on the large ticket bills

## Case BS (Before Scott)

- Procedural issues of the billing dispute
- Discovery disputes billing company claimed that it didn't have certain data
- Arbitrator failed to order production of billing software until eve of arbitration

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## Scott's Special Master Tasks

 Evidence Solutions was tasked with analyzing the software and determining what standard reports were available from the system.

# Scott's Special Master Tasks

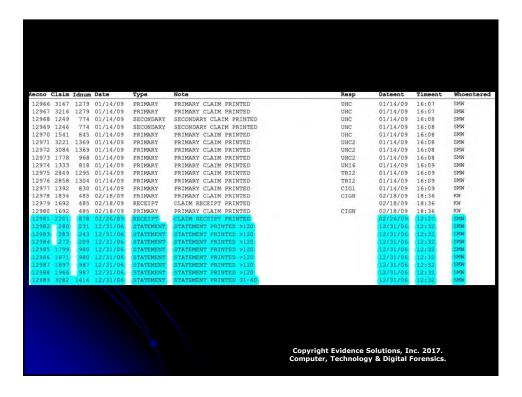
 Unable to get the software running we decided to look at the data.

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The first report from the database.

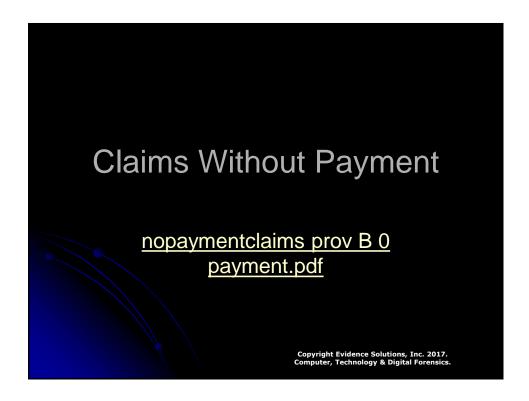
claction1 package.pdf

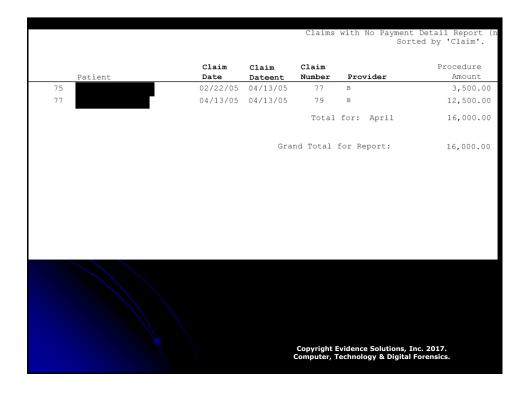
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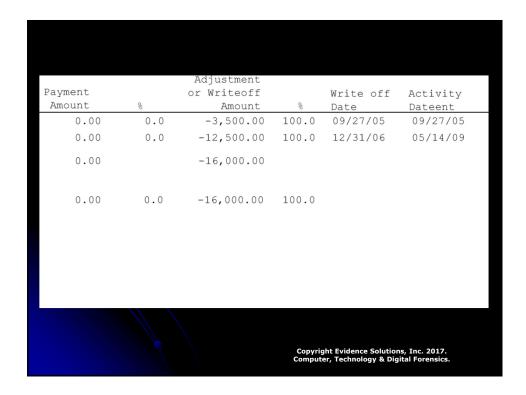


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1296	7 3216	1279	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12968	1249	774	01/14/09	SECONDARY	SECONDARY CLAIM PRINTED
12969	1246	774	01/14/09	SECONDARY	SECONDARY CLAIM PRINTED
12970	1541	845	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
1297	3221	1369	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12972	2 3084	1369	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12973	3 1778	968	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
1297	1 1333	818	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12975	2849	1295	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12976	2858	1304	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
1297	7 1392	830	01/14/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12978	1834	485	02/18/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12979	1692	485	02/18/09	RECEIPT	CLAIM RECEIPT PRINTED
12980	1692	485	02/18/09	PRIMARY	PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED
12981	2201	878	02/26/09	RECEIPT	CLAIM RECEIPT PRINTED
12982	280	231	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED >120
12983	283	243	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED >120
12984	272	209	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED >120
12985	1799	980	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED >120
12986	1871	980	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED >120
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12989	3282	1416	12/31/06	STATEMENT	STATEMENT PRINTED 31-60

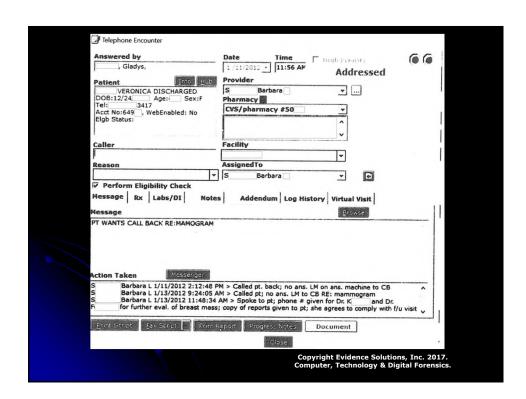
Note	Resp	Dateent	Timeent	Whoe	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC	01/14/09	16:07	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC	01/14/09	16:07	SMW	
SECONDARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
SECONDARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC2	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC2	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UHC2	01/14/09	16:08	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	UNI6	01/14/09	16:09	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	TRI2	01/14/09	16:09	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	TRI2	01/14/09	16:09	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	CIG1	01/14/09	16:09	SMW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	CIGN	02/18/09	18:36	KW	
CLAIM RECEIPT PRINTED		02/18/09	18:36	KW	
PRIMARY CLAIM PRINTED	CIGN	02/18/09	18:36	KW	
CLAIM RECEIPT PRINTED		02/26/09	12:20	SMW	
STATEMENT PRINTED >120		12/31/06	12:32	SMW	
STATEMENT PRINTED >120		12/31/06	12:32	SMW	
STATEMENT PRINTED >120		12/31/06	12:32	SMW	
STATEMENT PRINTED >120		12/31/06	12:32	SMW	
STATEMENT PRINTED >120		12/31/06	12:32	SMW	
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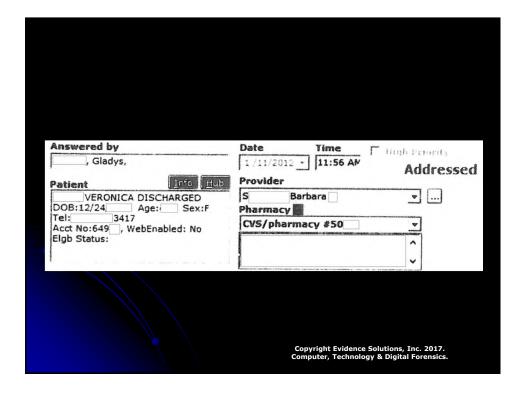


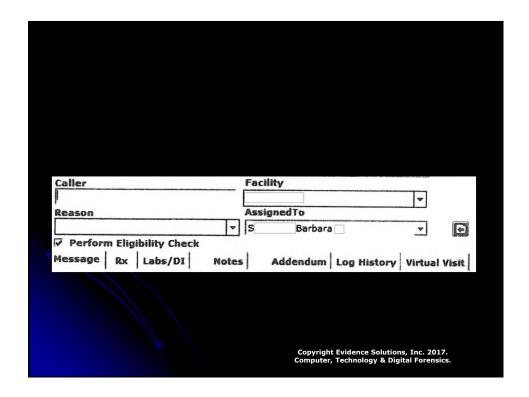


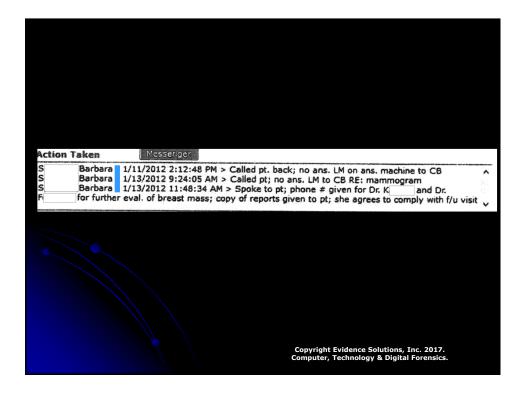


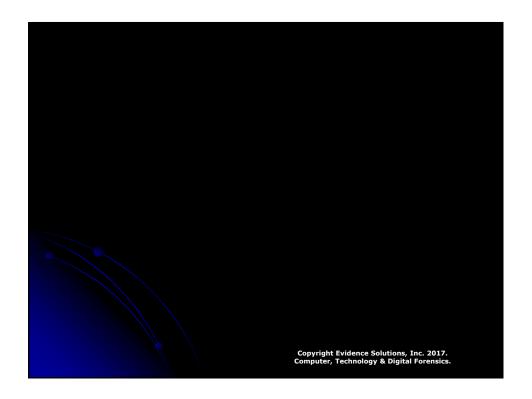


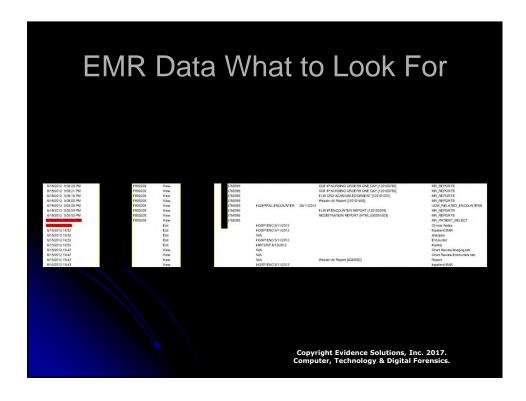


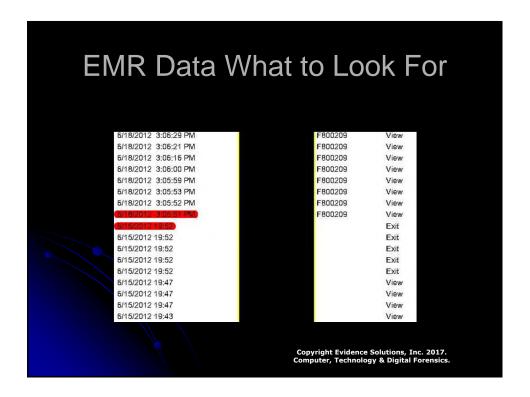




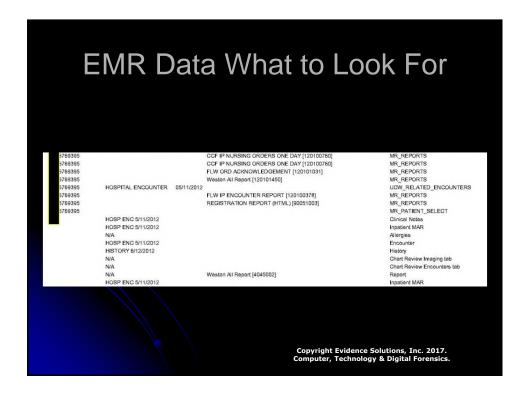








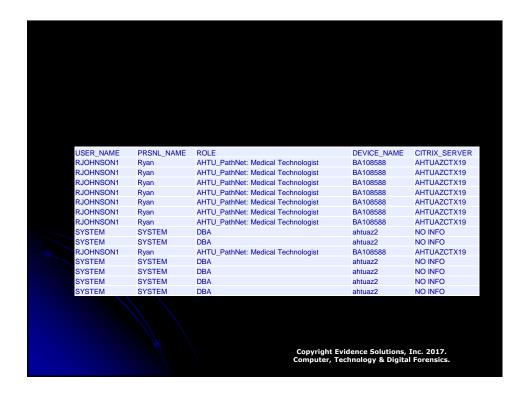
**EMR Digital Forensics** 

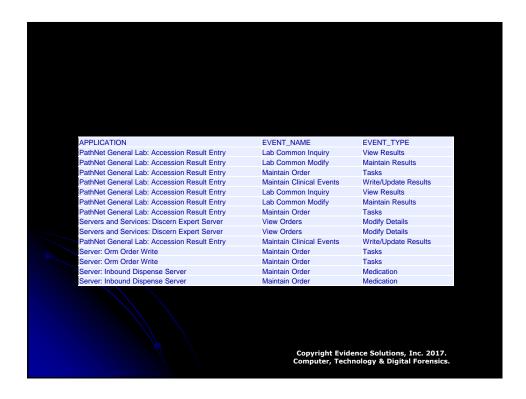




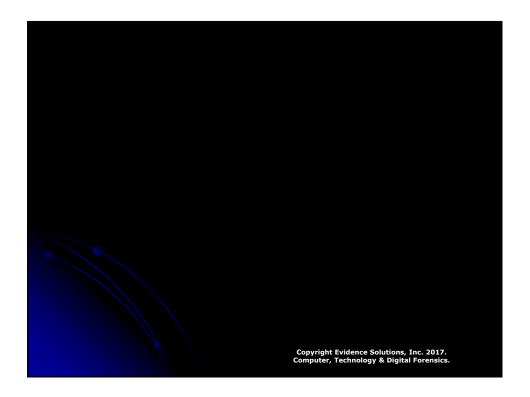












### What to Ask for?

- Request for Production
- No. 1: All information in your possession regarding your patient Jane Smith. This request is specifically intended to require production of information beyond what may be deemed the medical records or the "designated record set."

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### What to Ask for?

No. 1: In the event you maintain an electronic medical records system, this request for production is intended to require the production of every possible data set (or categories of data) that your electronic medical record system can provide. In the event you claim that information in your possession is privileged or work product, provide a privilege log specifying the privileged items.

### What to Ask for?

 No. 2: The print screen of Defendant's EMR computer system that provides the data sets that Defendant may select for printing of Plaintiff's medical records.

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### What to Ask for?

 No. 3: Any Room Activity Report, Detailed Room Activity Report, and/or any report documenting any visit by hospital personnel or health care providers to decedent/patient's room or that tracks the location and timing of decedent/patient in the hospital



### Federal Law - medical records

- 45 CFR § 164.524:
- (a) Standard: Access to protected health information—
- (1) Right of access. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section, an individual has a right of access to inspect and obtain a copy of protected health information about the individual in a designated record set, for as long as the protected health information is maintained in the designated record set, except for:
- (i) Psychotherapy notes;
- (ii) Information compiled in reasonable anticipation of, or for use in, a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding; and

### Federal Law - medical records

- 45 CFR § 164.501 Definitions.
- Designated record set means:
- (1) A group of records maintained by or for a covered entity that is:
- (i) The medical records and billing records about individuals maintained by or for a covered health care provider;
- (ii) The enrollment, payment, claims adjudication, and case or medical management record systems maintained by or for a health plan; or
- (iii) Used, in whole or in part, by or for the covered entity to make decisions about individuals.
- (2) For purposes of this paragraph, the term record means any item, collection, or grouping of information that includes protected health information and is maintained, collected, used, or disseminated by or for a covered entity.



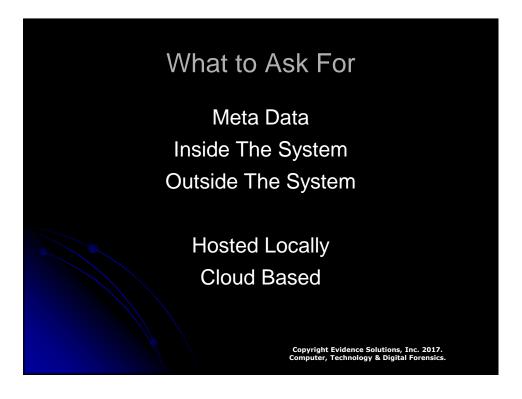
Doctor's Company: ehr are causing medical errors

- Analysis of EHR Contributing Factors in Medical Professional Liability Claims
- Lack of Physician training: Not seeing available data, including radiology. GYN not seeing recent CT.
- Alerts: Failure of system to transmit data to caregivers, including critical value alerts

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Doctor's Company: ehr are causing medical errors

- Analysis of EHR Contributing Factors in Medical Professional Liability Claims
- Data Entry: wrong patient, wrong test, wrong data.



# Each System is Unique Data Dictionaries Exports of Data Reviewing Other Relevant Data – HIPAA Issues Copy and Paste Templates Copyright Evidence Solutions, Inc. 2017. Computer, Technology & Digital Forensics.





### What to do / How to do it

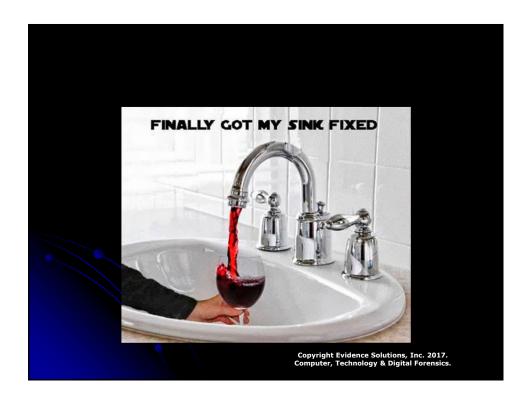
- Meta Data is Everywhere
  - it can tell a much different story than the data
- How do you know when to call for help?
  - upfront a consultant can steer a case in the right direction
  - data that looks suspicious

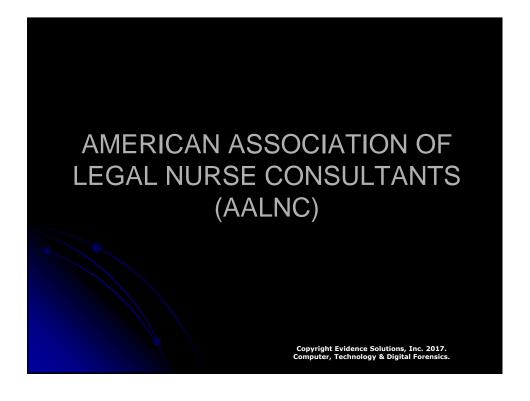
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### What to do / How to do it

- Are there things that should signal suspicion that data has been altered?
  - If it is too good to be true, it probably is.
- Can you do a quick review of data produced to advise on what deeper review is possible?
  - Yes

# What to do / How to do it • Do you have some practical tips for us in writing discovery requests? • Yes I have templates that can be used for all sorts of discovery requests Copyright Evidence Solutions, Inc. 2017. Computer, Technology & Digital Forensics.





### **Contact Information**

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### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL NURSE CONSULTANTS

### AALNC 20171025

### Questions

- 1) Is it possible to manipulate data in the EMR such that it is un-detectable?
  - a. Yes but it is easily detectable
  - b. Yes but it is difficult to detect
  - c. No it can never be done
  - d. We don't know yet
- 2) When examining EMR data or audit logs what's the best time to consult an EMR forensics expert?
  - a. Before the project begins
  - b. When something doesn't seem right
  - c. When the attorney on the case insists
  - d. Just before trial
- 3) Back dating entries in a modern EMR can be done by:
  - a. Changing the date and time on the workstation
  - b. Changing the date and time on the server
  - c. Selecting a date and time on the entry form
  - d. Entries can never be back dated
- 4) Changes in a single audit log data format may be an indication of:
  - a. Data coming from more than one system
  - b. Data manipulation
  - c. Poor reporting by the EMR system
  - d. Updates performed on the EMR system
- 5) Which EMR system has been identified as storing not only the final progress note but also any "pended" progress note?
  - a. Cerner
  - b. Epic
  - c. eClinical Works
  - d. MicroMD

### Moderator open ended questions

- 6) Are all EMR systems setup to log everything all the time?
- 7) Why can't EMR systems produce the data on the screen as it looked at the time it was entered?
- 8) What are the implications of HIPAA and collecting EMR data?
- 9) What does Signing the record do in a modern EMR system?

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10) Do all systems in a medical facility send data to the core EMR and is the Audit log of the core EMR complete with data from all of those systems?

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