

## Resources are Now Available from OCR for Compliance with the New Health Equity Law

As a follow-up to an [earlier ASHA Headlines](#) message regarding the new [health equity law](#) [PDF] that was released by the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), ASHA wants to make members aware of the training materials and other resources that are now available on the [OCR website](#).

Effective July 18, 2016, health care providers who receive federal financial assistance—including Medicaid or Medicare payments (except Part B)—must comply with the new requirements under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Section 1557, the civil rights provision of the ACA, expands on existing policies that prohibit discrimination based on sex, age, national origin, disability, race, or color.

Below is a list of the available resources from OCR:

- A [summary](#) [PDF] of the final rule implementing Section 1557 of the ACA.
- [Training materials](#) for health care providers and other covered entities to help train their employees on compliance with Section 1557. The materials include a slide deck and a presenter's guide.
- A [model grievance procedure](#) that can be used by health care providers with 15 or more employees—as these providers are now required to have a grievance procedure in place and to appoint a compliance coordinator. Health care providers with fewer than 15 employees do not need to comply with this requirement.
- [Sample documents](#) of a "Notice of Nondiscrimination", "Statement of Nondiscrimination", and "Taglines" are available to download in 64 languages. Beginning October 17, 2016, health care providers must post a "Notice of Nondiscrimination" and "Taglines" --short statements in non-English languages--that alert individuals with limited English proficiency to the availability of language assistance services.
- A dedicated e-mail address, [1557@hhs.gov](mailto:1557@hhs.gov), to contact OCR directly with questions about Section 1557.

On Monday, September 12, 2016, from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. ET, ASHA will host a free online chat for ASHA members titled, "Update on New and Existing Nondiscrimination Requirements for Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists in Health Care Settings". [Registration](#) is open on ASHA's website.