

HIPAA Check-up – It's time

Government Audits

The Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Health and Human Services has announced a new phase of HIPAA Audits

- OCR may contact you for information as it creates a pool of candidates for audit
- If selected for a "desk audit," you will need to quickly provide documentation of compliance with selected HIPAA requirements
- OCR will target certain entities for more comprehensive on-site audits
- Substantial compliance issues could lead to an investigation and significant penalties

Cyber Threats

Health information has become a particular target of criminal activity

- Health information is considered to be 20 to 50 times more valuable on the black market than ordinary financial information
- The information systems of sophisticated health benefit insurers and administrators have been breached, affecting millions of plan participants
- Ransomware and other potentially devastating threats to information systems continue to emerge

Actions Needed

Employer-sponsored health plans, health care providers, and business associates should be taking measures now

- The OCR audit program requires fast turnaround; you will need to be prepared in advance
- OCR may ask for documentation that demonstrates recent efforts to meet ongoing requirements
- Because of evolving threats to the security of electronic information, HIPAA requires periodic assessments of security measures
- How prepared are you in the event of a breach?

What Ballard Can Do For You

Ballard has the experience to help you prepare for HIPAA audits and today's dangers

- Ballard organized a HIPAA Compliance Team years before HIPAA's privacy and security rules ever took effect
- Our HIPAA Compliance Team has assisted a wide range of health plans, health care providers, and business associates comply with HIPAA, HITECH, and related regulations
- Our Privacy and Data Security Group is able to offer a comprehensive range of legal services for privacy and data security

One Size Does Not Fit All

Ballard understands that you need a program that meets your needs. We can design a pragmatic compliance program that:

- Accounts for the measures you have already taken
- Contemplates the risks you face
- Prioritizes measures in view of your particular circumstances

Let us know if we can help

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