

Links to Official Information Regarding HIPAA and HITECH Data Security and Privacy Requirements

American Telemedicine Association
Business and Finance SIG HIPAA/HITECH Resources Work Group
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The US Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights “Health Information Privacy” web site (<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/>) contains a HIPAA privacy overview, frequently asked questions, and resources including the most of the following links.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

From atawiki:

“HIPAA is an acronym for the federal Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191). HIPAA, in part, calls for improved efficiency in health care delivery by standardizing electronic data interchange, and the protection of confidentiality and security of health data through setting and enforcing standards.

It has rules for:

1. Standardization of electronic patient health, administrative and financial data
2. Unique health identifiers for individuals, employers, health plans and health care providers
3. Security standards protecting the confidentiality and integrity of “individually identifiable health information,” past, present or future.

For [telehealth](#) patients and providers, there are technical and legal concerns about the privacy and security of common internet-based communications and HIPAA compliance. ATA's Standards and Guidelines Committee is preparing to study the area of real-time communications using general purpose networks (texting, instant messaging, Skype, VoIP, web-based, etc.). Since patients may choose less private and secure methods, one of the issues will be how telehealth providers can assure that the patient is informed about and consents to their choice of communications method.”

- The Privacy and Security Rules apply only to covered entities. Are You a Covered Entity?
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/index.html>
- Summary of the HIPAA Privacy Rule
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/summary/index.html>

- Guidance on Significant Aspects of the Privacy Rule
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/privacyguidance.html>
- Summary of the Security Rule
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/srsummary.html>
- Guidance on How to Comply with the Security Rule
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/securityrule/securityruleguidance.html>
- Sample Business Associate Agreement
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/contractprov.html>
- The HIPAA Privacy Rule and Health IT
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1174&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=26&mode=2&in_hi_userid=10732&cached=true
- The Security Rule and Health IT
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/securityrule/securityruleguidance.html>
- HHS HIPAA Administrative Simplification Regulation Text 45 CFR Parts 160, 162, and 164 (Unofficial Version, as amended through February 16, 2006) (See p. 39, Section 164.306 through p. 44)
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/privacyrule/adminsimpregtext.pdf>

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)

From atawiki:

“The HITECH ACT, or the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, was enacted as part (Title XIII) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.”

- Brief Overview of HITECH from House Ways and Means Committee
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/media/pdf/110/hit2.pdf>
- HITECH Act Enforcement Interim Final Rule (February 2009)
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/enforcementrule/hitechenforcementifr.html>

- HITECH Breach Notification Interim Final Rule (August 2009) for Covered Entities
 - <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coverentities/breachnotificationifr.html>
 - <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/breachnotificationrule/index.html>
- HHS Guidance to Render Unsecured Protected Health Information Unusable, Unreadable, or Indecipherable to Unauthorized Individuals
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/breachnotificationrule/brguidance.html>
- Federal Register (April 27, 2009) Guidance Specifying the Technologies and Methodologies That Render Protected Health Information Unusable, Unreadable, or Indecipherable to Unauthorized Individuals for Purposes of the Breach Notification Requirements Under Section 13402 of Title XIII (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; Request for Information
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coverentities/federalregisterbreachrfi.pdf>
- Federal Register (July 14, 2010) Part II: HHS 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Enforcement Rules Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act; Proposed Rule
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coverentities/nprmhitech.pdf>