

Chiropractic Office Managers

April 25, 2012

PLEASE READ THIS EMAIL:

I have never had such response to an email than this one. Many of you respond working with me to get your HIPAA Compliance in order. I applaud you. If you take action, please read this and get it done now!

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Dear Doctor,

WOW! I just received my first phone call from a doctor in Florida that is going through a Privacy and Security Audit. This was not because of a complaint but a straight forward audit. Get ready docs this is just the beginning of the new HIPAA audit program set in place by the Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009.

A few years ago, I wrote that the odds were you would not be HIPAA audited straight out of a complaint or patient records audits. Not anymore. Get ready!

Understanding the new HIPAA Privacy & Security Audit Program

Overview: The **ARRA of 2009**, in Section 13411 of the HITECH Act, requires HHS to provide audits to ensure covered entities and business associates are complying with the HIPAA Privacy Rules and Breach Notification standards.

To implement this mandate, OCR is piloting a program to perform audits of covered entities to ensure privacy and security compliance. Audits conducted during the pilot phase will begin November 2011 and end by December 2012.

Program Objectives: The audit program serves as a new part of OCR's health information privacy and security compliance program. OCR will use the audit program to assess HIPAA compliance effectiveness of covered entities. Audits present a new opportunity to examine mechanisms for compliance, identify best practices and discover risks and vulnerabilities that may not have come to light through OCR's

complaint investigations and compliance reviews. OCR will broadly share best practices gleaned through the audit process and guidance targeted to observed compliance challenges via this web site and other outreach portals.

When Will Audits Begin?

The pilot audit program is a three step process. The first step entailed developing the audit protocols. Next, a limited number of audits will be conducted in an initial wave to test these protocols. OCR expects the initial audits to begin in November 2011. The results of the initial audits will inform how the rest of the audits will be conducted. The last step will include conducting the full range of audits using revised protocol materials. All audits in this pilot will be completed by the end of December, 2012.

So, What Do You Have to Do?

Doctors, get your HIPAA compliance house in order. It does not have to be difficult and does not need to be time consuming. But...you just have to do it. **You MUST have written HIPAA Privacy and HIPAA Security policies and procedures that include employee training and disciplinary sanctions for non-compliance. You must also have the documentation of Uses and Disclosures of your patients' protected health information.**

A warning for doctors, while helping several Michigan chiropractors through HIPAA complaint audits, it has definitely been noticed that the requested information always includes a copy of your HIPAA Privacy or HIPAA Security written policies and procedures, as well as, documentation concerning the specific complaint.

When conversation gets around to HIPAA many doctors state that HIPAA is dead. NO, it is not. In fact, HIPAA is back with a vengeance since the passing of two major laws that include major increased HIPAA requirements and penalties.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes HITECH and Electronic Health Records, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act have given more power and authority to Health and Human Services to pass these increased requirements on to the Office of Inspector General and the Justice Department for stricter control and enforcement.

Do not put your head in the sand. This is an easy fix.

Please contact me if you need any help. I believe in keeping it simple...but get it done NOW

http://www.iccom.org/index_files/ICCOMProducts.html

Edie

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Visit my website and check out HIPAA Privacy and HIPAA Security

**Policies and Procedures manual,
as well as, the HIPAA HITECH updates for 2010. New Medicare
Compliance Manual coming soon.**

Are You HIPAA Compliant? *Will you pass the audit?*

http://www.iccom.org/index_files/ICCOMProducts.html

email me with any questions you may have: [\(click here to email me\)](#)

A Leader in Chiropractic Office Management and Compliance Training