



May 14, 2010

NOTICE: Are you keeping up with the new HITECH Breach Notification Rules?

Is encryption required of my patient information that is stored in my computers? No, BUT.....data that is breached and not encrypted will cost you big fines.

SO! read on.....

The “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”(ARRA) that was signed into law on February 17, 2009, established new rules that **expand HIPAA Security**. One of those rules is the **HITECH Breach Notification**. This law states that if you have a breach of your computer system you **MUST** notify US Health and Human Services, as well as, every patient on your computer that is at risk.

Immediate notification to HHS and the news media is required if it includes 500 + patients.

Here is something that will help. HHS has put into writing that if breached data is encrypted, you do not have to report it. ...an easy fix!

This is from the HHS website: **“Entities subject to the HHS and FTC regulations that secure health information as specified by the guidance through encryption or destruction are relieved from having to notify HHS in the event of a breach of such information.”**

Source: US Department of HHS

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/breachnotificationifr.html>

HIPAA Civil Penalties

This same ARRA Act of 2009 expands the HIPAA violations to a tiered civil penalty structure.

Source: US Department of HHS:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/10/20091030a.html>



Edie Hofmann
ICCOM
International Center for Chiropractic Office Managers

www.ICCOM.org

Call Edie at:
313.330.0199
or [CLICK](#) to email Edie

What should you do????

Call your software vendors or IT person that can encrypt your computer software, including your office/patient/billing management software and Microsoft Office software. Anything that stores EPHI. Do not forget to encrypt that flash drive you carry around in your pocket or purse.

Also, get your computers backed-up off site with something like "Carbonite". It is inexpensive and works great!

Have you looked at the checklists yet? Are you compliant? See for yourself.

The full HIPAA Privacy and HIPAA Security Compliance Checklists are available on our website. So go through it and see for yourself.

[HIPAA Privacy Checklist](#)

[HIPAA Security Checklist](#)

Don't forget. You have only 4 more days for the "SPECIAL OFFER" TO PURCHASE BOTH HIPAA PRIVACY AND HIPAA SECURITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUALS for \$307. Which is a \$75.00 savings!

[\(CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE NOW\)](#)

=====

Please visit my website that further explains the HIPAA Privacy and HIPAA Security rules and more.

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

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