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URGENT: Medicare News Release

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Don't let another year go by without becoming compliant with HIPAA Privacy and Security Law. It is THE LAW and it will cost you BIG bucks if you do not do it. HIPAA compliance deadlines were years ago. The following was released by CMS regarding HIPAA Privacy and Security compliance. Please, please, please do not stick your head in the sand any longer. I have already had 2 clients tell me they were asked for their HIPAA Privacy and Security Compliance documentation during a files audit. They will ask you, too.

It will NOW be a requirement to ask for your HIPAA Privacy and Security documentation when going through a kind of FILES AUDIT. See below.

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This information was released by:

**Department of Health and Human Services Office of
E-Health Standards and Services**

And distributed by: **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services**

“Please beware that this is the guidelines for onsite HIPAA Privacy and Security Investigation and Compliance Review. It is now understood that we will probably not have a direct compliance investigation, but when you undergo any type of other files audit etc, you will be asked for this information at the same time.”

Two months after releasing the above statement CMS took it off of their website, however, it is still the in force.

What to expect: **Sample Information Request For Onsite Compliance Reviews:** [\(CLICK HERE\)clicking this link will take you to CMS website](#)

HIPAA, Are YOU Compliant?

In my last article I broached the fact that most of us have forgotten HIPAA Privacy and making sure we are all compliant. Well, I was asked all kinds of questions that really surprised me. The number one question I received over and over again was: “I was told I do not have to be HIPAA compliant because I don't file insurance electronically. Is that true?”

Now I understand that not only has HIPAA been forgotten, it is totally misunderstood. HIPAA law addresses several different categories and you are responsible for knowing and implementing all of all it. HIPAA stands for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

The three parts that I know most of you have not done is:

HIPAA Privacy: covers protection of the privacy of ALL individually identifiable health information, the rights granted to individuals, enforcement activities, and how to file a complaint with HHS Office of Civil Rights. compliance date: April 14, 2003

HIPAA Security: covers protection of ELECTRONICALLY stored and transmitted health information. This rule specifies a series of administrative, technical, and physical security procedures for covered entities to use to assure the confidentiality of electronic protected health information. These provisions are related to the safeguards standard of the Privacy Rule. Compliance date: April 20, 2005

HHS Breach Notification: covers how you are required to handle any breaches of protected health information in your office. Compliance date February 22, 2010



Please visit my website that further explains the HIPAA rules and more about the compliance manuals available.

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