

HIPAA Privacy Rules:

- **Minimum Necessary Standard:** Healthcare providers must use, disclose, and request only the minimum amount of protected health information (PHI) necessary to accomplish the intended purpose.
- **Authorization Requirement:** Healthcare providers generally need written authorization from the patient to use or disclose PHI for purposes other than treatment, payment, and healthcare operations.
- **Notice of Privacy Practices:** Covered entities (healthcare providers, health plans, etc.) are required to provide patients with a notice of privacy practices that explains how their PHI will be used and their privacy rights.
- **Right to Access:** Patients have the right to access and obtain a copy of their own PHI held by covered entities.
- **Right to Request Amendments:** Patients can request amendments or corrections to their PHI if they believe it to be inaccurate.
- **Accounting of Disclosures:** Covered entities must provide patients with a list of who has accessed their PHI and for what purposes, upon request.
- **Restrictions on Marketing:** Patients must provide authorization for any marketing activities involving their PHI. This rule restricts the use of PHI for marketing purposes without patient consent.
- **Breach Notification:** Covered entities are required to notify affected individuals and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) of breaches of unsecured PHI.
- **Confidential Communications:** Covered entities must accommodate reasonable requests from patients for confidential communications of their PHI, such as sending mail to an alternative address.
- **Penalties and Enforcement:** HIPAA includes provisions for the enforcement of privacy rules and sets penalties for violations, which can be substantial.
- **Business Associate Agreements:** Covered entities are required to have business associate agreements in place with third-party service providers who handle PHI on their behalf. Business associates are also held to certain HIPAA privacy rules.

HIPAA Security Rules:

1. Administrative Safeguards:

- **Security Management Process:** Establish policies and procedures to prevent, detect, contain, and correct security violations.
- **Security Officer:** Designate an individual responsible for security management.
- **Workforce Training and Management:** Train employees on security policies and procedures and manage their access to ePHI.
- **Information Access Management:** Implement procedures for authorizing, monitoring, and revoking access to ePHI.

2. Physical Safeguards:

- **Facility Access Control:** Implement physical access controls to protect against unauthorized access to ePHI.
- **Workstation Security:** Implement policies for the use and access to workstations and devices with ePHI.
- **Device and Media Controls:** Implement procedures for the disposal, re-use, and accountability of electronic media and devices that contain ePHI.

3. Technical Safeguards:

- **Access Control:** Implement technical controls to restrict access to ePHI to authorized users.
- **Audit Controls:** Implement hardware, software, and procedural mechanisms to record and examine activity in systems containing ePHI.
- **Integrity Controls:** Implement mechanisms to ensure the integrity and authenticity of ePHI.
- **Transmission Security:** Implement security measures to protect ePHI during electronic transmission.

4. Organizational Requirements:

- **Business Associate Agreements:** Enter into agreements with business associates who have access to ePHI to ensure they also comply with HIPAA security requirements.
- **Policies and Procedures:** Establish and maintain security policies and procedures.
- **Documentation and Records:** Maintain records of policies, procedures, and security-related activities.

5. Risk Analysis and Management:

- **Conduct regular risk assessments** to identify and address security vulnerabilities and risks to ePHI.
- **Implement security measures** to mitigate identified risks.

6. Incident Response:

- Develop and maintain an incident response plan to address security incidents.
- Report and respond to security incidents in a timely and effective manner.

7. Contingency Planning:

- Create data backup and disaster recovery plans for ePHI.
- Test and revise these plans periodically.

8. Evaluation:

- Perform periodic evaluations to assess compliance with HIPAA security standards.
- Make any necessary changes to improve security measures.