Question 6: Data Governance Mechanism

In the healthcare industry, one of the most important Data Governance aspects is protecting PHI – Protected Health Information of patients. This is a vital tenant of the HIPAA Privacy Rule and thus a huge liability of the hospital if such data is not protected correctly. We would employ an algorithm that actively seeks out data that looks like a patient name, birthdate, social security number, etc. and label that data. Then we would employ policies to protect that data such as encrypting that data when being attached to emails, masking the data when nonessential providers view the data, etc. By classifying our PHI, we also can be sure that we are in a least governance state – by ensuring that only the roles that are essential to viewing PHI can view PHI. In addition to PHI, we would sit down with key data owners and discuss what other classifications we should have for our data in order to have a more efficient and robust process for the Hospital. We would also build a data retention policy and structure it around deleting data when the hospital is legally allowed to dispose of the data as to reduce the likelihood of data being compromised. We understand some data is needed in the long term, and would consult healthcare experts and hospital employees as to what the appropriate retention policy would be. Lastly, in terms of data access, we would employ least privilege access, in order to mitigate risks to our data.

Sources

Bresnick, Jennifer. "The Role of Healthcare Data Governance in Big Data Analytics." HealthITAnalytics, HealthITAnalytics, 18 Dec. 2019, https://healthitanalytics.com/features/the-role-of-healthcare-data-governance-in-big-data-analytics.

"Sensitive Data Discovery Software." Varonis, https://www.varonis.com/products/data-classification-engine/.