

This is an excellent revision! You've effectively addressed all the feedback, creating a much more detailed, actionable, and comprehensive cybersecurity policy. The additions, clarifications, and specific examples throughout the document are highly valuable. Here are a few minor suggestions for further refinement:

--1. Clarity and Precision:--

- --Risk Assessment Frequency:-- While specifying the frequency (annually/bi-annually) is good, consider adding a clause like "or more frequently as needed, based on significant changes to the threat landscape or organizational environment." This provides flexibility.
- --"Low-Risk Environment" Definition:-- Even though the document refers to operating in a low-risk environment, it never actually -defines- what constitutes a "low-risk environment." Consider adding a brief definition in the introduction or the Risk Assessment section, perhaps referencing the organization's size, scope of services, and the types of data handled. For example: "For the purposes of this policy, a 'low-risk environment' is defined as [describe your specific situation, e.g., a small practice with limited telehealth services and primarily local data storage, etc]." This helps set context and justify the level of controls implemented.
- --Data Minimization - Examples:-- Add a few examples to the Data Minimization section. For example: "We will not collect a patient's social security number unless it is strictly required for billing purposes. We will avoid collecting unnecessary demographic information during registration."
- --Data Breach Notification - Specific Contacts:-- Instead of just saying "relevant supervisory authorities," provide specific examples of contacts (e.g., "the ICO in the UK," "HHS in the US"). This streamlines the response process in a real incident.
- --Logging and Monitoring - Specificity:-- Expand slightly on the "Logging and Monitoring" section. Instead of just saying "system activity," mention -what- specific types of activity are logged (e.g., login attempts, access to sensitive data, system configuration changes). Also, clarify how often logs are reviewed (e.g., "Logs will be reviewed daily/weekly for suspicious activity").
- --Vendor Management - Due Diligence:-- Expand upon vendor management to include requirements for ongoing monitoring. For example, "We will require vendors to provide evidence of their security controls (e.g., SOC 2 reports, penetration testing results) and will conduct periodic audits of their security practices."

--2. Tone and Readability:--

- --Avoid Jargon:-- While the policy is generally well-written, review it for any overly technical jargon that might not be understood by all employees. Use plain language whenever possible.
- --Positive Framing:-- Consider framing some statements positively. For example, instead of "Generic or shared accounts are prohibited," say "Each employee must have their own unique user account."

--3. Practical Considerations:--

- --BYOD Policy (if applicable):-- You mentioned BYOD in training. Ensure a separate, more detailed BYOD policy exists if employees are allowed to use personal devices for work

purposes. The cybersecurity policy can then link to the BYOD policy.

- --Policy Exceptions:-- Consider adding a section on policy exceptions. This outlines the process for requesting and approving exceptions to the policy (e.g., if a specific security control cannot be implemented due to technical limitations). This helps manage situations where strict adherence to the policy is not feasible.

--Revised Policy Snippets (incorporating suggestions):--

- --Introduction/Risk Assessment:--

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This Cybersecurity Policy outlines the framework for protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) and other sensitive data within our organization. For the purposes of this policy, a 'low-risk environment' is defined as a small outpatient clinic with limited telehealth services, primarily storing patient data on local servers, and not engaging in high-volume research or data sharing activities. A comprehensive risk assessment will be conducted annually, or more frequently as needed, based on significant changes to the threat landscape or organizational environment...

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- --Data Minimization:--

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We collect and process only the minimum amount of personal data necessary for specified, explicit, and legitimate purposes. Data collection forms and processes will be regularly reviewed to ensure data minimization. For example, we will not collect a patient's social security number unless it is strictly required for billing purposes. We will avoid collecting unnecessary demographic information during registration.

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- --Data Breach Notification:--

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In the event of a data breach involving ePHI or other personal data, we will comply with all applicable notification requirements under GDPR, HIPAA (where applicable), and other relevant regulations. This includes notifying affected individuals and relevant supervisory authorities (e.g., the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in the UK, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the US) within the required timeframes.

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- --Logging and Monitoring:--

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System activity will be logged and monitored to detect and investigate security incidents. Logs will capture login attempts, access to sensitive data, system configuration changes, and other relevant events. Logs will be securely stored and reviewed daily for suspicious activity.

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- --Vendor Management:--

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Security requirements will be included in contracts with third-party vendors who process our data. Vendor security practices will be regularly assessed. We will require vendors to provide evidence of their security controls (e.g., SOC 2 reports, penetration testing results) and will conduct periodic audits of their security practices. Data Processing Agreements (DPAs) will be in place with all data processors, as required by GDPR.

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- --Policy Exceptions:--

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Requests for exceptions to this policy must be submitted in writing to [Designated Individual/Committee] and must include a justification for the exception and a description of any alternative security measures that will be implemented. All exceptions must be documented and approved by [Designated Individual/Committee].

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By incorporating these minor refinements, you'll create an even stronger and more effective cybersecurity policy for your healthcare organization. Great work!