



HIPAA SECURITY TIP – AUGUST 2007

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING (BCP)

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Business Continuity Planning (BCP) is addressed in the HIPAA Security Rule as a Standard called Contingency Planning (**§ 164.308(a)(7)**). The regulation requires that organizations establish (and implement as needed) policies and procedures for responding to an emergency or other occurrence (for example, fire, vandalism, system failure, and natural disaster) that damages systems that contain electronic protected health information (EPHI).

This Standard requires that organizations do the following:

1. Develop a contingency plan policy
2. Conduct an application and data criticality analysis
3. Identify preventive measures
4. Develop recovery strategies
5. Develop data backup plan as well as a disaster recovery plan
6. Develop and implement an emergency mode operation plan

The key objectives that must be addressed to meet regulatory requirements include:

- Conduct a comprehensive Business Impact Analysis (BIA)
- Define the organization's overall contingency objectives.
- Establish the organizational framework, roles, and responsibilities for this area.
- Address scope, resource requirements, training, testing, plan maintenance, and backup requirements.
- What services must be provided within specified critical timeframes
 - Patient treatment, for example, may need to be performed without disruption.
 - By contrast, claims processing may be delayed during an emergency with no long-term damage to the organization.
- Have cross-functional dependencies been identified so as to determine how the failure in one system may negatively impact another one?

Has your organization addressed the HIPAA requirements for contingency planning and disaster recovery? Most organizations struggle with this requirement. For a copy of a white paper on Continuity Planning and Security, please contact Rainey Johnson at 1.877.899.9974 x20.

Get HIPAA Certified On-line!

HIPAA Academy, the industry's leading provider of HIPAA training, certification and consulting, has made available on-line the content and exams for HIPAA Academy's Certified HIPAA Professional (CHP) and the Certified HIPAA Security Specialist (CHSS). 2007 clients include many hospitals, long term care organizations, BCBS, several business associates and leading firms such as IBM, HP, E&Y, Kaiser Permanente and others. For details, please visit www.HIPAAAcademy.Net.

COMPLIMENTARY HEALTHCARE EXEC BRIEF PDF THE DISRUPTION OF HEALTHCARE: FORCES OF TECHNOLOGY AND GENETICS FOREVER CHANGE HEALTHCARE

In this executive brief we examine the DNA of tomorrow's digital healthcare ecosystem. Digital healthcare is about the delivery of personalized care – it is about information-based medicine. It is the result of digitization of healthcare information of each person.

In this brief, we examine the building blocks of digital healthcare including:

- The flattening of the healthcare infrastructure as a direct result of Electronic Health Records (EHR), the National Healthcare Information Network (NHIN), Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) and of course, the Internet
- Regulatory compliance and how it is seriously influencing policy and technology priorities in healthcare organizations
- The impact of genomics on healthcare and its influence on personalized medicine

The brief has been downloaded by hundreds of organizations including many hospitals, government agencies, HP, Siemens, Phillips Medical, EDS, BlueCross BlueShield, Aetna, HIMSS, JCAHO, Microsoft, and IBM.

"In the executive brief document, The Disruption of Healthcare, Pabrai details the state of challenges in the healthcare system in the United States today with accuracy. As Pabrai describes, the forces of technology and genetics are beginning to seriously impact the American digital healthcare ecosystem," stated Dr. Guttina Subrahmanyam, Wipro Health and Life Sciences.

"This brief is a very comprehensive document with all the relevant and up-to-date data on American healthcare and the direction it is taking in the years to come. As someone who is very passionate about personalized medicine, I would highly recommend the brief as a must-read document," further stated Dr. Subrahmanyam.

You may download a complimentary copy of the executive brief PDF at www.ecfirst.com.

FREE SECURITY POLICY AUDIT!

For a limited time, the HIPAA Academy will audit your organization's information security policies and procedures AT NO COST. Your policies will be reviewed for compliance with regulations such as HIPAA and information security best practices in the industry. Contact Lorna Waggoner, Director of Business Development, at 1.877.899.9974 x17 to discuss the audit of your policies.