

DECEMBER 2019

REQUIREMENTS

TRANSPARENCY

POLICIES

COMPLIANCE

STANDARDS

REGULATIONS

LAW

COMPLIANCE CONNECTION

COMPLIANCE HOTLINE
877-780-9367

COMPLIANCE CONNECTION: Providing Relevant Issues and Hot Topics IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURE ARTICLE

Happy HIPAA Holidays Poem:
"A Visit to the ER from St. Nick"

HIPAA Humor (See Page 2)

HIPAA Quiz (See Page 2 for Question & Answer)

DID YOU KNOW...



HIPAA and the Holidays

As the holiday season builds momentum we are faced with numerous distractions like holiday decorations, taking advantage of online sales and soaking in the traditions that we look forward to each year. But this season of joy and giving should also be met with a heightened sense of awareness and adherence to HIPAA policies and procedures. You're likely thinking to yourself, "How can Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or the New Year impact HIPAA?" Well, those holidays can't, but your employees' behavior sure can.

Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI): This busy season will cause some employees to take advantage of online shopping while at work. While that seems relatively harmless, and in most cases it is, this also invites the possibility of introducing viruses into your system from unprotected and/or unapproved sites. **Physical Security:** Unfortunately, the season of "giving" for some means a season of "taking" for others. Generally, criminal activity like property theft and break-ins rise during the shopping season.

Workstation Security: Many health care providers will experience an increase in patient activity as people clamor to make their end of the year appointments to take advantage of any cost savings before the new year begins. **Visitors and Guests:** The holidays aren't nearly as fun without office holiday parties. These parties generally include catered meals, outside delivery services and even invited guests.

Tone of Voice: One of the biggest complaints that our office receives regarding patient privacy is the tone of voice used by employees and staff as they discuss their health conditions.

Read entire article::

<https://alabamamedicine.org/hipaa-and-the-holidays/>



Santa in the ER: A Visit to the ER from St. Nick

*Twas the night before surgery, and all 'cross the floor
The patients were buzzing 'bout the guy in Room Four.
His chart was hung on his door with great care
To make sure his name was not shown anywhere.
The patients were nestled all snug in their beds
While telemetry monitors beeped overhead.
And I in my gown, with its crack in the back,
Had just settled down for my clear liquid snack.
When down the hall there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
I pulled off my leads and flew out the door,
With my IV pole dragging behind on the floor.
Away to Room Four I hurriedly dashed
Unaware of my gown and the nurses I flashed.
As I slid to a halt and leaned to peek in
I heard the nurse say, "Sir, you mustn't go in!"
And what did I see when I looked in Bed A
But ole Mr. Claus; on his belly he lay.*

*Covered in gauze and stuck high in the air
Oh what a sight, 'twas St. Nick's derriere!
He was yelling at Doris, the nurse at his side
To be tied to this bed, he just could not abide.
He moaned and he bellowed about his ill luck
But there was just nothing for it; the old man was stuck.
"What happened to Santa?" to Doris I said,
"Why's he on his belly in this hospital bed?"
With a grin she whispered, "He did something stupid.
He injured his butt when he backed into Cupid."
But the old man's ears were sharp as tack.
He heard what she said there behind his back.
"You had no right to speak, and that is a fact!
Don't you know about HIPAA, the privacy act?"
"You're out of compliance, Doris, my dear.
You had no right to tell him 'bout my injured rear!
I'll sue you for breach, and this hospital, too!
You won't have a job when I'm through with you!"
"When I check my list and then check it twice,
You'll be in the column labeled 'Not Nice.'
The HIPAA patrol will likewise drop by
To find out why you, Doris, did not comply!"
"They'll want to know why you opened your yap,
A big, hefty fine on your butt they will slap.
And from me every Christmas you will now see
Nothing but switches and coal 'neath your tree."
Merry Christmas and HIPAA New Year!*

Resource: <https://hipaanews.net/2009/12/happy-hipaa-holidays-funny-poem/>

DID YOU KNOW...



HIPAA and the Holidays

A distracted employee is more likely to click a suspicious link or open a questionable email that could introduce ransomware into your computer system or electronic medical records.





New York Legislation Prohibits First Responders from Selling Patient Data for Marketing Purposes

On October 7, 2019, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed new legislation into law – S.4119/A.230 – that prohibits first responders and ambulance service personnel from selling or disclosing patient data to third parties for marketing or fundraising purposes.

The bill was originally introduced by New York Assembly Member Edward Braunstein in 2014 following reports that ambulance and first response service personnel were selling patient data such as names, addresses, phone numbers and medical histories to third parties such as pharmaceutical firms and nursing homes for marketing and fundraising purposes. Prior to the introduction of the new law, these disclosures and the sale of patient information were permitted in New York.

"Patients have a right to privacy and their medical information should never be sold to pharmaceutical companies, insurers, nursing homes, or other businesses," explained Braunstein.

The legislation follows the June 25, 2019 signing of the Stop Hacks and Improve Electronic Data Security (SHIELD) Act into law, which overhauled state regulations for data privacy and security to better protect the private information of New York residents.

The new law applies to ambulance staff and first responders, but not to healthcare providers, health insurers, and parties acting under appropriate legal authority, such as government health inspectors and law enforcement. Patient information may be disclosed, transferred, or sold to the patient who is the subject of the information or a person authorized to make health care decisions on behalf of the patient.

Ambulance staff and first responders are only permitted to sell, disclose, transfer, exchange, or use patient data for marketing or fundraising purposes if they have obtained written consent from the patient in question prior to the sale or disclosure.

Read entire article:

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/new-york-legislation-prohibits-first-responders-from-selling-patient-data-for-marketing-purposes/>

HIPAA Quiz

You are just alerted to an accident involving a school bus full of minors – what information can you share?

Answer: In a disaster or in an extreme situation like the one mentioned above, the public may benefit from the release of general information when specific information cannot be released. For example, you might say, "the facility is treating twenty children as a result of the school bus accident." You may state the number of patients who have been brought to the facility by gender or by age group (adults, children, teenagers, etc.). This type of general information can help reduce undue anxiety. *** (In the event that a state law or individual hospital policy is more restrictive than the HIPAA guidelines, the more restrictive law or policy will apply.) No specific information about a patient can be released unless the requestor asks for the patient by name.

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"According to my research, laughter is the best medicine, giggling is good for mild infections, chuckling works for minor cuts and bruises, and snickering only makes things worse."

13-Days of HIPAA Puns

What do you call a provider if he/she is found to have violated patient confidentiality?
HIPAAcrit

What do you call a theory for HIPAA success?
HIPAAthesis

What does one experience once they've grown cold to HIPAA compliance threats?
HIPAAthermia

What do you call someone who complains incessantly about HIPAA?
HIPAAchondriac

What do you call urgent HIPAA issues?
HIPAAcritical

What do you call the uphill slope toward HIPAA compliance?
HIPAAtenuse

What do you call someone who thinks HIPAA is sweet?
HIPAAglycemic

What is the disease you get from too much HIPAA?
HIPAAtitis

What do you call someone who is delighted with HIPAA?
HIPAA-go-lucky

What oath protects HIPAA?
HIPAAcratic Oath

What part of the brain has too much HIPAA?
HIPAAcampus

What is the largest place to hold a HIPAA Convention?
HIPAAdrome

What is the name of a beast that lurks in medical center hallways devouring protected health information and all personal patient information?
HIPAApotamus

Resource: <https://hipaaneeds.net/2009/10/funny-hipaa-jokes-puns/>

LINK 1

Study Reveals Types of Protected Health Information Most Commonly Exposed in Healthcare Data Breaches

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/protected-health-information-commonly-exposed-healthcare-data-breaches/>

LINK 2

Cybercriminals Switching from Business Email Compromise to Vendor Email Compromise Attacks

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/cybercriminals-switching-from-business-email-compromise-to-vendor-email-compromise-attacks/>

LINK 3

Sen. Rand Paul Introduces National Patient Identifier Repeal Act

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/sen-rand-paul-introduces-national-patient-identifier-repeal-act/>

LINK 4

Dental Practice Fined \$10,000 for PHI Disclosures on Yelp

<https://www.hipaajournal.com/dental-practice-fined-10000-for-phi-disclosures-on-yelp/>

THUMBS UP!!!

Thumbs Up To ALL Departments For Implementing

*Awareness of
HIPAA, PII, PHI, ePHI & Social Media*



- Main Campus
- West Campus
- Legends Park
- 501a Locations

