

HIPAA Privacy and Security

The privacy and security of personal information is something everyone should be concerned about. This is especially true in the area of healthcare, where individuals share details of their health, personal lives and finances when they are at their most vulnerable. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") addresses these issues by imposing stringent privacy and security requirements on healthcare providers and their business associates.

Newly revised federal regulations require "covered entities" — healthcare providers, health insurance plans, healthcare clearinghouses, and "business associates" who contract with these entities — to create and implement information-security policies covering protected health information that is electronically transmitted or maintained. The work needed to comply with these regulations presents a tremendous challenge for all organizations that handle healthcare information.

Course Summary

This 40-minute course explains the basic principles of HIPAA privacy and security in simple, understandable terms. It includes pop-quizzes, news clippings and a final quiz highlighting real-world compliance issues that employees should learn to recognize and respond to appropriately.

The topics covered in the course include —

- What is HIPAA?
- Who is subject to HIPAA?
- Protected health information (PHI)
- HIPAA privacy
- Notice of privacy practices
- Reasonable safeguards
- Using PHI for marketing
- HIPAA security
- Administrative safeguards
- Physical safeguards
- Technical safeguards
- Handling PHI
- Security breach
- PHI rights of individuals
- Enforcement