

Q&A

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Q: What is the purpose behind the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights HIPAA compliance audit program I have been hearing about?

A: The OCR is responsible for overseeing an audit of a broad range of covered entities for compliance with the HIPAA privacy and security requirements. Each "auditee" will receive a draft audit report and be provided with an opportunity to present a corrective action plan. In addition, OCR will use the audit results to identify compliance vulnerabilities and best practices observed through the audit process, and issue guidance through the OCR website and other outlets.

Whether or not your business becomes an audit target, it is a good time to review your HIPAA compliance, identify weaknesses in your policies or operations, and implement corrective action before a breach occurs. Keep in mind the security of laptops and mobile devices, as a number of breaches have been reported arising out of the theft or loss of such devices, as well as the security of your wireless network and other electronic information.



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