

re: HIPAA compliance this year
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2015 Compliance Guide (Part 4): HIPAA

Mental / behavioral healthcare practices face several compliance challenges this year, with HIPAA being no exception. Here's a rundown of what you can expect:

Even more HIPAA-related enforcement

The recent hacking of consumer data from huge corporations such as Home Depot, Sony and Anthem - and the pervasive publicity these breaches have received - puts even more pressure on the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to enforce HIPAA compliance. It's one thing for credit card numbers to be stolen; it's entirely different issue when medical records, especially mental health or substance usage files, are hacked. As one consultant differentiated: "It's very personal to people when their health data is filched; it's creepy."

Covered entities and business associates will refine their agreements as they come under increased scrutiny

About a year and a half ago, many practices and business associates (BAs) scrambled to sign business associate agreements (BAAs) to have them in place by the September 2013 HIPAA Omnibus deadline. However, covered entities (CEs, ie, practices) and BAs now are customizing their BAAs to their individual needs. One provision may become more prevalent that would allow a BA to use a practice's unidentified client data for the business associate's own use.

[get details and read more here....](#)



Summer Opportunity to Help

Looking for a way to give back this summer? If you're in the Chicago area, consider being a part of the Selective Mutism Project Adventure Camp!

The training is free, and it's a powerful way to support children and families. The application deadline is 3.15.15: [click here](#) for details.

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