

## PIMSY mental health EHR Newsletter – Sept 2013 – HIPAA Webinar

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### Free HIPAA Compliance Webinar

Join Practice Manager Strategist Rebecca Morehead for a free webinar about HIPAA Compliance. The deadline to meet the recent HIPAA Omnibus revisions is 9/23/13—are you ready? Does your practice have everything in place to maintain compliance and meet the changed HIPAA regulations?

Rebecca will providing an overview of security compliance and taking your questions. Don't miss this opportunity to receive free guidance from a HIPAA expert (and PIMSY Advisory Board Member). Space is limited, reserve your spot now!

**HIPAA Security Compliance Overview:**  
Sept 17 (Tues), 2-3 pm EST  
[click here](#) to register

# WEBiNAR

### Are You Ready for the 9/23 HIPAA Omnibus Deadline?!

We've been posting about the 563 page HIPAA Omnibus revision that went into effect on January 17 and that **you must be compliant with by September 23, 2013**. To recap the highlights of what this means for your mental & behavioral health care practice:

- Update your Notice of Privacy Practices (NPPs)— [check out the details](#) for your practice and [resources provided](#) by guest blogger Rebecca Morehead.
- Update your contracts with Business Associates (BAs).
- Make sure your clients' private health information (PHI) is protected, on all devices and with all staff (you may need the assistance of a compliance officer).
- Conduct a Risk Assessment, including analyzing and organizing the data in case of a breach.
- Have office policies in place to address the new rule that allows individuals to restrict PHI disclosures to their health plan if services are paid for out of pocket. This is especially important for mental & behavioral health care providers, whose clients may wish to keep their mental PHI private.

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## Countdown to Compliance

The January 17, 2013 release of the **HIPAA Omnibus Rule** ushered in several important changes to the privacy and security requirements and gave medical practices until September 23, 2013 to meet those requirements. Today, I'd like to focus on the requirement for covered entities to have **updated privacy policies** as a part of their **compliance plans**. Many practices that I am talking with are just now realizing that they need to revise their privacy policies and associated forms in order to meet the Omnibus requirements.

The specific updates required involve the following areas:

- 1) New **breach notification** standard
- 2) Changes to the marketing and sale of PHI
- 3) Disclosure of decedents' PHI
- 4) Allowable disclosures to schools (e.g., proof of immunizations)
- 5) Patients' right to **limit disclosures** when payment is made out of pocket
- 6) Patient requests for **electronic copies of medical records**

We recognize that this can be an overwhelming responsibility particularly when it is added to the everyday tasks of **seeing patients, running your medical practice** and keeping on top of the **ever-changing governmental rules and regulations**.

Practice Manager Solutions has a solution for you. We have a set of Privacy Policies which includes updated forms, policies and templates that you can use as a solid starting point and customize for your specific needs. You can download them now in time to meet the **Sept 23rd deadline** at: <http://practicemanagersolutions.com/hipaa-privacy-policies-procedures/>

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