

PIMSY mental health EHR Newsletter – Feb 2013 – What is PII?

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HIPAA Compliance Question: What is PII?

One of the most important determining factors in HIPAA compliance is the nature of the information being transmitted: if it's not sensitive PII (personally identifiable information), it can be securely transmitted electronically. What is PII and what's not? What's sensitive PII and what's not?

According to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, PII – or personally identifiable information – is any information that can be used to uniquely identify, contact or locate an individual, or can be used with other sources to uniquely identify a person .

Sensitive PII is that which, when disclosed, could result in harm to the individual whose name or identity is linked to the information. In determining whether or not PII is sensitive (and therefore subject to HIPAA privacy laws), the context in which the information is used must be taken into consideration. For example, a list of subscribers to a government newsletter is not PII; ([click here](#) to read more...)



What Really Differentiates EMRs?

One of our favorite EMR bloggers, John Lynn, recently wrote about what truly differentiates EHR/EMR vendors, such as PIMSY. We were struck not only by the candidness of the post, but also by the ways in which PIMSY meets each of the criteria he describes:

Efficiency -- PIMSY was designed by and for mental & behavioral health care providers, and most of the functionality that has been added since its creation has come directly from the feedback of our clients. PIMSY wasn't created as part of the Meaningful Use craze just to gain users access to incentive money: it was thoughtfully mapped out to provide the smoothest workflow possible for the people actually using it. Our clients have given us plenty of feedback about how PIMSY has increased ([continued...](#))



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Another Way to Give Back

There's a mental health trend developing in California: some of the best therapists in the greater Los Angeles area are offering sliding scale rates. Reza Nabavi, Ph.D., created a sliding scale therapy online service in response to an increased demand for lower cost therapy, whether individual, couples, group, or family.

When clients come to the site, they fill out a simple form about their needs. Then, based on their financial situation and location, they are connected with a therapist in their area who can accommodate their price range and receive a call back within 36 hours.

Many strong clinicians are offering sliding scale costs in their practice, so the clients are connected to these therapists based on their presenting issues. Participating providers include marriage and ([read more...](#))

