ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE W/ AOD?

Ensuring Compliance with HIPAA Law

In 2009, the HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) Act created a new patient right to a report that details which users of an EMR or EHR have accessed information about them. Prior to this change, patients' rights to an accounting of disclosures of their electronic health record excluded disclosures for: treatment; payment; or health care operations.

A vital aspect to note about this change is that it not only includes the covered entity (the practice) but also business associates of the covered entity and their employees. By implementing this change, Health and Human Services (HHS) said that they believe the burden is mitigated by the HIPAA Security Rule requirement that covered entities and their business associates must maintain activity logs for information systems that store electronic Patient Health Information (e-PHI).

How do you ensure compliance? Make certain that you have the following in place:
1) An EMR that can electronically track disclosures of information.
2) Staff trained to keep track of authorization requests and disclosures of e-PHI in a system for later reporting (preferably your EMR).
3) A practice policy that clearly defines your method of disclosing, tracking and reporting e-PHI.

What is the time frame you have for completing these steps?
1) If you implemented an EMR on or before 1/1/09, the effective date of this change is 1/1/14.

Blogging as Therapy

In a recent study, researchers in Israel asked 160 teens who had scored low on a test of emotional and social well-being to: blog about their problems for 10 weeks using a nickname; blog about anything they wished; or maintain a diary in an unshared computer file.

By using before and after tests to measure self-esteem & satisfaction with peer interactions and by analyzing their writings for mental health clues, it was shown that the group who blogged about their problems had the most improvement. Among the bloggers the greatest strides were made by those whose blogs were open to commenters.

The blogs were monitored to ensure that no identifying details were revealed, and the few unsupportive comments were deleted. Given the risks of disclosure, the authors recommended that this kind of frank blogging occur only as part of a supervised treatment program. Interested in learning more? Click here for the study details or here to read the Wall Street Journal article.

Psychology Today

Don't forget about our ongoing promotion with industry leader Psychology Today that offers you the opportunity to start getting new clients!

Simply sign up for The Therapy Directory using the promotional code "PIMSY" when prompted, and you'll get 6 months of listing absolutely FREE. that's a value of almost $180!

Click here to register.

2) If you implemented an EMR after 1/1/09, the effective date of this change was either 1/1/11 or the EMR implementation date.

Click here for a summary of the AOD requirements.

NEW PIMSY SUPPORT SITE

Even Better PIMSY Support Resources!

In our relentless quest to keep PIMSY evolving and growing as the best EMR and Practice Management software available, we're now offering an even more comprehensive Support site! It currently includes all of the stellar resources our clients have come to rely on from the old support site (such as training videos, support tickets, the Help Desk, etc). And, over the next few months, we will be adding all kinds of cool bells and whistles.

One additional resource is a comprehensive user forum in which we track questions & answers to common PIMSY questions. Our clients already contributing to the content of this library, as we use their support tickets and calls to create the database (anonymously of course).

We'll also be adding detailed resource center with commonly used forms and documents, including private copies of PIMSY contracts and invoices for easy reference. Click here to see the log-in page for the new site and contact us for a trial log-in to check it out further.

NEW OPTIONS AND FEATURES

Easier Payments and Automatic Reminders

Did you miss some of the new options & features now available ?

1) At the request of our valued clients, we now offer the ability to pay PIMSY invoices with your credit card and/or ACH (bank to bank). You can make a one-time payment or set up ongoing automatic drafts. Your information is securely transmitted and stored, and eliminating the paper saves ***everyone*** time and money.

2) Automatic Reminders (via text, phone call and/or email) are now available in PIMSY Professional and Platinum. The cost is 20 cents per reminder, and you're only charged for successful transmissions.

As always, contact us for additional information or assistance.

Save time, save money, automate!

Ask Myles

Therapy dog answers your questions!

"Myles, I'm wondering if you would share with me how your person at the other end of the leash went about preparing to be a part of your therapy team? Is there research and literature that you would share with me to support the use of dogs in therapeutic situations? I have an almost 1 year old dog that I am interested in bringing into a clinical setting (outpatient substance use treatment w/clients who live with opioid dependence as well as mental health issues) and would like supportive, evidence-based data to present to the directors. Thank you for all your hard work and any information you have for me."

Myles responds:

"Hi there and woof! Thanks for your great question. I'm really glad you are interested in getting your dog involved in therapy work: what we do is so important, and we need all the help we can get!

To become a therapy dog handler, your dog needs to be evaluated by Linda Nash (click here for email) with Therapy Dogs Inc. She does a simple evaluation at a nursing home in Hendersonville a few times every quarter. She checks to make sure their temperament is suited for therapy dog work. They must know the basic commands of sit, stay, etc., and they cannot pull on the leash. If your dog passes the evaluation, she then has you join her for 3 to 4 observed visits at a nursing home, a child care center, a hospital, and/or a school.

If you pass those visits and pay the $25 fee, you and your dog become an official therapy dog team and are covered under their insurance policy. There are restrictions, however, meaning this coverage won't apply at your place of business. Therapy Dog Inc.'s coverage is for volunteer work only. If your therapy dog is working at your place of business, their insurance policy must cover any incident that might take place.

There is a lot more information available, and my handler Kristin Walker is happy to do a call with you or bring me by for a visit so you can see me in action. I love visits! Click here to send her an email."

Have a question for Myles? Click here to send him an email; we'll put your question and his answer on a future newsletter to share

Meaningful Use Questions

Exploring Core Meaningful Use Measure "Protect Electronic Health Information: Conduct or review a security risk analysis in accordance with the requirements under 45 CFR 164.308(a)(1) and implement security updates as necessary and correct identified security deficiencies prior to or during the reporting period. "

This measure has created confusion among Eligible Professionals (EPs), with some worrying that it requires hiring a consultant, while others assume they automatically satisfy this requirement because their EMR is ONC-ACTB certified. Neither stance is accurate.

According to CMS, this MU measure is not designed to introduce new requirements above the HIPAA security rule that calls for analysis and remediation. However, EPs still have to be able to back up their attestation to the rule with documentation of the process that was undertaken and the measures taken to address deficiencies. For more info, click here for a detailed guide from ONC.

QUICK LINKS

PIMSY FAQ
Free Video Demo

with others. Meanwhile, stay current on everything he has going on: Click here to read Myles' latest blog post, here to follow him on Twitter or here for his Facebook page.

As always, we appreciate your feedback and your interest in PIMSY! Contact us to see how this incredible software can streamline your workflow and organize your office.

Sincerely,
Leigh-Ann Renz

SMIS/PIMSY Marketing Queen
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Forward email