



HIPAA Disaster Plan: Are You Prepared?

The recent hurricane got us thinking: what's *your* disaster backup plan? The HIPAA Security Rule requires all Covered Entities (CEs) to draft a disaster recovery plan, by service definition, that includes what measures your practice will take in case of a natural disaster. Are you prepared?

Contingency Plan

Federal law requires that CEs must implement protocols to safeguard - and ensure access - to electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI), including a contingency plan to secure continued availability to ePHI during emergencies or disasters.

However, ePHI isn't accessible without use of a data processing application, such as Electronic Health Records (EHR) or Practice Management System software - which means that the data can only be recovered with those systems, and their utilization needs to be included in the contingency plan.

Data Backup Plan, Methods

Most data recovery centers recapture ePHI by using either data backups or replication:

> **Data backups** are to removable media such as CDs, flash drives, etc - or to storage systems such as dedicated backup appliances. Data backups are typically: taken regularly, duplicated, and stored both on and off site to maintain multiple versions of the data.

> **Data replication** copies ePHI to another site, which might be a host, network, or storage system facility. Data replication can be booked to happen on a certain

schedule; or copies of the data can be made while the information is being modified (synchronous mirroring).

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What Are the Advantages to Cloud-Based EHR?

We were recently asked what makes Cloud-based EHR preferable to practice management software hosted onsite. It led us to research [the advantages of Cloud-based EHR / EMR systems](#) for mental + behavioral health practices.



MACRA, QPP, MIPS, HUH?

In 2015, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) was passed. The goal is to ultimately **change Medicare payments from quantity to quality based**. It is also simplifying the reporting process **merging Meaningful Use and PQRS** together. So what does this mean for providers? [Learn More](#)



Clinician Toolbox

There are a *lot* of articles available online that might be useful to your mental / behavioral health care practice. Are you familiar with the **Good Therapy blog**? They regularly offer interesting content, such as ["4 Ways to Give Difficult Feelings The Space They Deserve"](#). Do you have a favorite resource? [Share it](#) with us.

To your success!

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