



eHI Explains: HIPAA

What is HIPAA?

The **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1996. It set the standard by which many providers and hospitals now share health data.



Important Aspects of HIPAA



Privacy Rule

PHI disclosure rules



Security Rule

Standards to safeguard ePHI



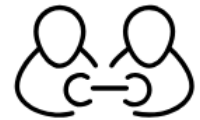
Enforcement Rule

How investigations are conducted



Breach Notification Rule

60 days to notify HHS



Omnibus Rule

HITECH merges with HIPAA

Important Definitions of HIPAA

Covered Entity

Includes: (1) health plans, (2) health care clearinghouses, and (3) health care providers who electronically transmit any health information in connection with transactions for which HHS has adopted standards.

Business Associate

"A person or entity who, on behalf of a covered entity, performs or assists in performance of a function or activity involving the use or disclosure of individually identifiable health information." (nih.gov)

Business Associate Contract

"The business associate contract also serves to clarify and limit, as appropriate, the permissible uses and disclosures of protected health information by the business associate, based on the relationship between the parties and the activities or services being performed by the business associate." (hhs.gov)

Personal Health Information

"Protected health information is the term given to health data created, received, stored, or transmitted by HIPAA-covered entities and their business associates in relation to the provision of healthcare, healthcare operations and payment for healthcare services." (hipaajournal.com)

HIPAA Compliance

HIPAA compliance refers to covered entities and their business associates who have been trained about HIPAA, and are expected obey the rules of the law. This is often not a device or piece of technology, unless that object has been stamped with a covered entity's approval.