

## The Benefits of Contracting a HIPAA Consulting Firm

Ever wondered how HIPAA compliant your organization actually is? Are you struggling with the implementation of certain HIPAA requirements? Are you concerned your organization might not pass an OCR HIPAA audit?

Contracting with an external professional to perform an onsite HIPAA audit (risk analysis) might be a good option for you. If you are a business associate, a 3rd party onsite compliance assessment is vital in showing your partners you take HIPAA compliance and the security of their patient information seriously. This is a great differentiator because not all business associates do this.

A HIPAA audit is a thorough examination of an entity's HIPAA compliance practices to discover any problems, loose ends, or security vulnerabilities. HIPAA audits are a great way to help get your HIPAA compliance in order.

### 5 Reasons to Contract a HIPAA Consulting Firm:

- 1. You don't have to spend as much time on HIPAA**  
Because your auditor is analyzing your HIPAA requirements for you, you don't have to spend as much time organizing certain components of HIPAA compliance.
- 2. You can trust your auditors to find holes**  
External HIPAA auditors are experts. They know healthcare's list of common mistakes and are experts at finding what you still need to do to become HIPAA compliant. Guaranteed, they will catch something your internal HIPAA compliance team missed.
- 3. Your auditor is objective**  
A third party HIPAA auditor will be objective, focused, and agnostic. Conducting an internal audit with your own workforce staff is a great first step, but the results may not be accurate. There is always the chance that a staff member may accidentally or purposely overlook something. The great thing about a third party auditor is, they give you all the information you need, then leave you to decide what to do with the information presented.
- 4. You'll get reports**  
An external auditor should provide a HIPAA compliance report that documents the security efforts and compliance status of your organization. This documentation should give you and executive management an overall picture of your HIPAA compliance. You will likely want to share your compliant report with your partners, business associates, and customers.
- 5. Your patient data security will increase**  
Onsite auditors provide the information you need to fix security and privacy vulnerabilities that could potentially lead to a data breach. Like I said above, these guys are security experts. They know the common holes hackers look for when compromising an organization. After you implement your auditor's suggestions, your security will skyrocket.

**If you have any questions or concerns about HIPAA, please give our HIPAA consultants a call at (888) 959-0220**