

HIPAA Compliance Information

Matrosity Hosting Remote Backup Service can help medical service practitioners reach HIPAA compliance for secure off-site storage of electronic records.

HIPAA background

In 1996, Congress enacted the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The legislative goals of HIPAA were to mandate the industry to implement procedures to reduce the administrative costs of healthcare, develop standard transactions for consistency in the industry, promote security and confidentiality of patient records and to provide incentive for the healthcare industry to use electronic communications to make patient records available no matter where the patient was being treated - a process that takes days with manual records - and particularly useful in emergencies.

All health care providers, insurance providers, health care clearinghouses or health plans that electronically maintains or transmits health information pertaining to an individual must comply with HIPAA regulations. Failure to comply with the Act's requirements originally had some onerous penalties for disclosure of any element of medical information to sources without need, such as a clerk inadvertently faxing some record to the wrong fax number, would have had both financial and incarceration involved. These penalties have been reduced by interpretation by the Secretary of HHS, who was chartered by the Act to develop the compliance guidelines.

The Act, as passed by Congress, set 1998 as the start date for compliance, but the pace with which the Federal Bureaucracy operates has delayed the start date to 2005. All in the healthcare industry are now preparing to comply with the Act.

On your way to HIPAA compliance

HIPAA requires those in the healthcare industry to have an off-site, encrypted remote electronic data backup and a contingency plan to meet the mandated Administrative Procedures in the Act. Every practitioner, be they doctor, clinic, hospital, testing lab, surgery center, or any of the other organization that provides services to individuals and stores patient medical records, must backup to a secure, encrypted (for privacy) off-site location each day.

By working with Matrosity Hosting Remote Backup Service, a medical practice or medical information chain participant has a chance to become "in compliance" with HIPAA. Matrosity Hosting Backup Service uses the NovaStor line of backup software, which utilizes 448-bit Blowfish encryption for security. This technology encrypts or "encodes" your medical information and transmits it to our servers which reside in a safe, secure offsite location.

More information about HIPAA can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>