



NC Public Health HIPAA Alliance

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HIPAA Security Risk Assessment - Why



Top Risks to Security of ePHI

- End-users' lack of security training
- Failure to manage user accounts
- Failure to use designed security controls e.g. session time-out, password complexity, password expiration, role-based access
- Failure to harden the instance after deployment/failure to patch
- Negligent management of business associates
- No backup, no redundancy
- No encryption

Guidance – Part 1

- Establish periodic reviews of user accounts to reconcile staff additions, terminations and changes in responsibility
 - Keep a detailed review log and supporting evidence
 - Confirm last date of log-on for terminated staff from Audit Trail - Security
- Security Training
 - Reemphasize the importance of Security
 - Increase frequency of training, automate if possible, include logging for nonrepudiation
 - Test via quizzes, phishing simulators, etc.

Guidance – Part 2

- Test Technical Vulnerabilities
 - External Penetration Test
 - Internal Penetration Test
 - On-site Social Engineering
- Revise Security Incident Response and Breach Notification Procedures

Carolinas IT SRA Approach

The Goal: to reveal the areas where your ePHI is at risk and recommend steps to reduce that risk

- Diagnostic Tools (vulnerability, AD scans)
- Checklists
- Professional Reports
- Guided by an ISACA Certified Information Systems Auditor following industry standards
- Penetration Testing, Phishing, OSE (optional)



The Carolinas IT Difference

- 14 NC Public Health customers (CureMD, Patagonia, NetSmart)
- Comprehensive Review of Controls, Policies and Procedures is included in the Standard SRA
- CIT SRAs are lead by auditors who were IT Directors
- CIT provides Policy and Form templates
- CIT conducts Progressive Assessments
 - Increasing level of focus on controls
 - Periodic audit of critical controls: Training Records, User Account Management and Evidence of Activity Log Review





- _____ are a company's biggest security risk.
- _____ should be completed periodically in order to keep users up-to-date and aware of the evolving threat environment.
- _____ allows you to gain an understanding of which vulnerabilities are most likely to be exploited by a threat.
- The Carolinas IT SRA approach provides a picture of risk and a _____ to help you design a security roadmap.

Thank You!

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