

HIPAA Readiness Statement

HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) is a set of regulations developed by various different government agencies and members of the health industry. It's designed to protect patient rights, and simplify the complicated web of communication systems used by the industry for passing information from one entity to another. HIPAA contains a set of standards to be used by all agents of the industry with regard to how the information is transferred and protected. There are three main provisions of this Act, which will affect Compulink's software.

Transaction Standards

The most critical of these three provisions to Compulink are the new Transaction Standards. These standards dictate how various different forms of EDI will be designed and implemented. Specifically, these regulations require the use of the ANSI 004010X098 format for all EDI transactions. We began developing programs which adhere to these regulations in October of 2001 and have since been certified by multiple carriers across the US. We continue our testing with other carriers, and eventually will be certified for direct EMC with more than 80 carriers across the country.

Privacy Regulations

The Privacy regulations dictate standards for keeping individually identifiable patient data private. This means that patient data should only be visible on a need to know basis. With regard to Compulink software, the privacy regulations dictate how information in our program is secured in order to keep personal patient data private. Compulink has various different levels of security built into our applications, which allow system administrators to allow access to only the parts of the system that particular person or station needs to access. In other words, the person who adds the demographic information into the system may or may not have access to the diagnostic or medical record part of the system, etc. Many of the changes necessary in your office regarding the Privacy regulations will not be related to your software, but instead related to the flow of the paperwork through your office. It is very important that you assign a HIPAA officer in your office to regulate these processes to ensure your policies meet the guidelines of the Privacy regulations.

Security Regulations

The Security regulations will dictate specific details as to how the electronic information used by the healthcare industry should be stored, transferred, and used to ensure the privacy of individually identifiable data related to a patient's healthcare. These rulings have yet to become final, however, we have adopted our own standards, and are continually evaluating our systems to help you ensure the security of your patient's data.

Compulink Software

Compulink Business Systems, Inc. provides Health Care Management Software to various different specialties in the healthcare industry. Our role in HIPAA is that of a "business associate", and we are continually researching and testing our products to ensure our ability to provide covered entities (our clients) with the proper tools for achieving HIPAA compliance. We employ a staff of experienced programmers who are devoted to changing and improving our products to meet or exceed the industry requirements and standards.

We have completed and released our HIPAA compliant claims module, and are currently upgrading our clients across the country to that new program. Our claims module creates and submits claims to our carriers in the ANSI 004010X098 version.

Our Advantage 8.0 product offers critical tools for assisting your practice in achieving compliance.

Here's a list of some of those important features:

- User Login and Password
- Ability to limit access to specific patient data depending upon Login ID
- Chart logging – keep a complete log of who has accessed the patients paper charts
- Track changes made to the Medical Record by login ID
- Digital signatures
- Exam Record Locking and Audit Trail
- HIPAA compliant EMC

Here are some important deadlines you will want to put on your calendar

- October 15, 2002 – Deadline for submitting an extension for Electronic Health Care Transactions & Code Sets
- April 14, 2003 – Deadline for meeting the Privacy Standards imposed by HIPAA
- April 16, 2003 – Electronic Health Care Transactions and Code Sets – clients must be testing by this date.

Frequently asked questions regarding HIPAA may be found here: <http://www.cms.gov>

Specifics regarding the formats of electronic data required under HIPAA may be found here:

<http://www.wpc-edi.com>

For more detailed information about HIPAA, you can visit <http://www.hipaa.org>.