



PROVIDER ALERT

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

December 15, 2014

With the ease and greater use of electronic devices, i.e., Smartphones, Tablets, and Laptops to assist providers in the operation of their practices -- including record and billing management, providers are reminded to ensure all devices and apps are HIPAA compliant.

The HIPAA Security Rule requires covered entities to maintain reasonable and appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards for protecting e-PHI (electronic protected health information), such as encryption and password protection. Specifically, covered entities must ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all e-PHI they create, receive, maintain or transmit; identify and protect against reasonably anticipated threats to the security or integrity of the information; protect against reasonably anticipated, impermissible uses or disclosures; and ensure compliance by their workforce (45 C.F.R. § 164.306(a)). The Security Rule can be found at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164, Subparts A and C.

Additional, information can be accessed through
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/srsummary.html>.