



# HIPAA FACT SHEET

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HIPAA is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. It became effective in 1996 and has had many different rules, revisions and clarifications since then. The privacy rule of 2003 regulates the use and disclosure of protected health information (PHI) held by covered entities.

PHI is basically any information concerning health status, provision of health care or payment for health care that can be linked to an individual. Covered entities are organizations that are engaged in electronic transmission of protected health information.

If you have ever filed a claim with a payer, you are a HIPAA-covered entity and you must comply with HIPAA privacy and security rules. HIPAA is a federal law and the Office of Civil Rights enforces the privacy rule and will investigate potential violations.

HIPAA requires that you take certain measures to protect your client's protected health information and that you disclose information about HIPAA and your HIPAA-related policies (See: [Sample Notice of Privacy Practices](#)) to your clients.

For more information on HIPAA see the following resources:

- **HRSA's Definition of Covered Entity:**  
<http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/toolbox/HIVAIDSCaretoolbox/SecurityAndPrivacyIssues/whoisreq2comply.html>
- **HIPAA Frequently Asked Questions:**  
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/index.html>
- **Online Training:**  
HHS.gov: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/training/index.html>  
Data Academy: <http://hivinsite.org/target/dataacademy/index.html>
- **Sample Notice of Privacy Practices:**  
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/coveredentities/notice.pdf>  
[http://stdtac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Privacy-Practices-Notice\\_STDTAC-1.docx](http://stdtac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Privacy-Practices-Notice_STDTAC-1.docx)

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FOR MORE TOOLS AND RESOURCES, VISIT [STDTAC.ORG/BILLING-TOOLKIT](http://stdtac.org/billing-toolkit)

