The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has ramped up its HIPAA Privacy and Security audit program. This second phase of audits are more comprehensive and focus on the routine application of HIPAA policies and procedures across an entire organization. To assist providers with keeping staff trained and up-to-date on HIPAA requirements, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published training resources on the HHS.gov website. This educational program is designed for health care providers and covers compliance with various aspects of HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. Access this training on the HHS website. http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/

OCR has six educational programs for health care providers on compliance with various aspects of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. Each of these programs is available with free continuing medical education credits for physicians and continuing education credits for health care professionals. The programs are available on the OCR Medscape page www.medscape.org/.

Compliance topics include:
- EHRs and HIPAA: Steps for Maintaining the Privacy and Security of Patient Information
- Your Mobile Device and Health Information Privacy and Security
- Understanding the Basics of HIPAA Security Risk Analysis and Risk Management CME
- Patient Privacy: A Guide for Providers
- HIPAA and You: Building a Culture of Compliance
- Examining Compliance with the HIPAA Privacy Rule

HIPAA Training Requirements

§ 164.308 Administrative safeguards. (a) A covered entity or business associate must, in accordance with § 164.306:

- (5)(i) Standard: Security awareness and training. Implement a security awareness and training program for all members of its workforce (including management).
HIPAA regulations require covered entities to implement a security awareness and training program for staff through policies and procedures. Training frequency and timeframes should be conducted as required and should include upon hire, annually, and periodically. Documentation of training must include date, staff in attendance (including sign-in sheets), method of training, speaker, content (including handouts), location, duration and all other factors. Retention of training documentation is required and shall be maintained for six years.

Content of training should be relevant to HIPAA requirements, including topics such as recognizing malicious software, login monitoring and password management. Additional content should include practice policies, governmental legislation, facility changes, results of audits and reviews, technology changes, and notice of threats and virus.