



HIPAA Security Assessment Case Study

Security Assessment fulfills HIPAA requirements for hospital and provides blueprint for remediation

The Challenge

The HIPAA Security Rule required that the hospital conduct an accurate and thorough assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to electronic protected health information during storage and transmission. The hospital needed a third-party assessment and obtained quotes from several qualified security assessment vendors. Initially, the hospital believed Spohn's quote was too high, but ultimately chose Spohn based upon our value adds surrounding the cost of the service including hours spent on site, back office hours in research and analysis and remediation reporting. Another deciding factor was our ability to complete the work within 2 - 3 months — the hospital's Compliance Officer felt it would take their internal staff a year to achieve the same results.

The Solution

The hospital engaged Spohn Consulting to implement its HIPAA Security Assessment service. Spohn's security assessment is mapped directly to the security rule into what Spohn identified as 70 unique, required and addressable provisions. Led by an experienced network security engineer, Spohn audited the hospital's current administrative, physical, and technical security measures including policy, plans, procedures, systems, and networks. A compliance matrix with recommendations for remediation was then developed. Recommendations were based on Spohn's expertise in balancing the cost for improvement versus the increased protection it would provide, allowing for development of a cost effective compliance plan.

The assessment process required only four days of on-site work. The remainder of the testing, analysis, and documentation were completed remotely.

The Assessment

- Remote and on-site collection of pertinent data and site information and remote testing of network security measures
- On-site analysis and testing of physical and technical security measures and analysis of LAN, WAN, and Wireless networks
- On-site interviews with key management and staff members
- Development of three volume report of assessment process and findings and
- development of supporting digital content

The Results

The hospital achieved the following as a result of Spohn's HIPAA Security Audit:

- Met audit requirement as defined in Sec. 164.308(a)(1)(ii) of the Security Rule
- Acquired detailed documentation for use in budget and remediation planning
- Immediately lowered risk to their stored electronic information
- Effectively communicated compliance status and plans to board of directors

Industry

Medical

For further information please contact our corporate office at 512.685.1837