

2017 HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY AND SECURITY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

To start off the New Year, here are some potential health information privacy and security resolutions. You can use these Annual, Quarterly, and Monthly lists to map out your privacy and security tasks for the year, and then check them off as you complete them. We have included empty rows for you to add your own resolutions.

As with any New Year's resolutions, these are intended to represent potential best practices for the coming year – failing to meet one or more of these resolutions does not necessarily mean that you are out of compliance with HIPAA or other laws.

Additionally, this list is not intended to be comprehensive of all statutory and regulatory requirements. Checking off all these resolutions does not guarantee compliance. While this list is focused on health information privacy and security, we hope that other sectors will also find it useful. ■

ANNUAL TASKS			
✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance Checkup – Check cybersecurity coverage (including coverage of ransomware)	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis – Conduct a Security Rule risk analysis of all confidential/critical information (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(A))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Plan – Create or update a risk management plan to reduce identified risks (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(B))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Breach Response Table Top – Conduct breach response table top exercise and update breach response plan accordingly	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Test Disaster Recovery Plan – Test backups and disaster recovery plan (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(D))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Website Privacy Policy Checkup – Check website privacy policy(ies) to verify coverage of all collection and use of information collected through website(s) (It doesn't hurt to take another look at the terms of use as well)	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal Privacy and Security Policies Checkup – Revisit internal privacy and security policies to verify applicability to operations, such as determining whether social media, remote access, and portable media are addressed adequately. Also revisit "problem areas"	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of Security Rule Compliance – Conduct a review of compliance with the HIPAA Security Rule (if applicable), such as by checking that policies and procedures address all Security Rule requirements (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Evaluation – Perform a penetration test of information security controls (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TCPA Checkup – Check if performing any automated calling and texting and, if so, verify compliance with Telephone Consumer Protection Act	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendor Checkup – Verify (such as by reviewing accounts payable) that appropriate privacy and security safeguards (including HIPAA business associate agreements, if applicable) are in place with all vendors and that business associate-related risks are included in the Security Risk Analysis	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group Plan Checkup – Check that group health plan documents and privacy, security, and breach notification policies comply with HIPAA, including listing all employees or classes of employees or other persons with access to plan protected health information (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(f)(iii)(A))	Quarter __	

ANNUAL TASKS

✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Privacy Officer – Check that designations for the privacy officer and any privacy contacts are up to date and are reflected in any notice of privacy practices (45 C.F.R. § 164.530(a)) (optional for HIPAA business associates)	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Officer – Check that designation is up to date (45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(2))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	HIPAA Hybrid Entity Designation – Consider whether to designate as a hybrid entity (if you have components unrelated to health care/health plan coverage) or update existing designation (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.105(a))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Affiliated Covered Entity Designation – Consider whether to designate as an affiliated covered entity (if you have multiple legal entities that qualify as HIPAA covered entities) or update existing designation (based on any new acquisitions) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.105(b))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal Business Associate Agreements – If you have legal entities (such as a parent company) that is not a covered entity but supports entities that are, verify that an internal business associate agreement is in place and up to date	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Breach Reports – Submit all 2016 small breach reports to HHS (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.408(c))	March 1, 2017	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Privacy Training – Train relevant workforce members on privacy policies and procedures (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.530(b))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Training – Train relevant workforce members on security policies and procedures (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(1))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Breach Notification Training – Train relevant workforce members on breach notification policies and procedures (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.414(a))	Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter __	

QUARTERLY TASKS			
✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Plan Update – Update most recent risk management plan	Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encryption – Document that all devices containing protected health information are encrypted (or that there is documentation for why encryption is not reasonable and appropriate). (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1)(ii)(iv))	Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerability Scanning – Conduct a network vulnerability scan (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Plan Update – Update most recent risk management plan	Quarter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encryption – Document that all devices containing protected health information are encrypted (or that there is documentation for why encryption is not reasonable and appropriate). (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1)(ii)(iv))	Quarter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerability Scanning – Conduct a network vulnerability scan (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 2	

QUARTERLY TASKS			
✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Plan Update – Update most recent risk management plan	Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encryption – Document that all devices containing protected health information are encrypted (or that there is documentation for why encryption is not reasonable and appropriate). (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1)(ii)(iv))	Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerability Scanning – Conduct a network vulnerability scan (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Management Plan Update – Update most recent risk management plan	Quarter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encryption – Document that all devices containing protected health information are encrypted (or that there is documentation for why encryption is not reasonable and appropriate). (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1)(ii)(iv))	Quarter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerability Scanning – Conduct a network vulnerability scan (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(8))	Quarter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 4	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Quarter 4	

MONTHLY TASKS			
✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	January	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	January	
<input type="checkbox"/>		January	
<input type="checkbox"/>		January	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	February	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	February	
<input type="checkbox"/>		February	
<input type="checkbox"/>		February	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	March	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	March	
<input type="checkbox"/>		March	
<input type="checkbox"/>		March	

MONTHLY TASKS

✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	April	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	April	
<input type="checkbox"/>		April	
<input type="checkbox"/>		April	
	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	May	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	May	
<input type="checkbox"/>		May	
<input type="checkbox"/>		May	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	June	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	June	
<input type="checkbox"/>		June	
<input type="checkbox"/>		June	

MONTHLY TASKS			
✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	July	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	July	
<input type="checkbox"/>		July	
<input type="checkbox"/>		July	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	August	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	August	
<input type="checkbox"/>		August	
<input type="checkbox"/>		August	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	September	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	September	
<input type="checkbox"/>		September	
<input type="checkbox"/>		September	

MONTHLY TASKS

✓	Task	Estimated Completion	Actual Completion
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	October	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	October	
<input type="checkbox"/>		October	
<input type="checkbox"/>		October	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	November	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	November	
<input type="checkbox"/>		November	
<input type="checkbox"/>		November	
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Activity Review – Document review of information system activity (e.g., audit logs) (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D))	December	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Reminder – Send out a security reminder, such as related to password management, phishing, logging off, etc. (HIPAA, 45 C.F.R. § 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A))	December	
<input type="checkbox"/>		December	
<input type="checkbox"/>		December	