



HIPAA Security: CMS Begins On-site Reviews

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS") is beginning on-site reviews of hospital compliance with HIPAA security regulations. In the January 17, 2008 issue of Government Health IT, it was reported that CMS will begin auditing security compliance by commencing reviews at 10 to 20 hospitals this year.¹ Reviews will include interviews with staff and reviews of the hospital's security risk assessment and security policies. If CMS finds non-compliance, it is authorized to fine a hospital or impose other penalties.

This announcement by CMS marks a new phase in HIPAA enforcement by the government, and hospitals and other health care providers should take notice. GWT is available to advise hospitals about the necessary steps to maintaining compliance with HIPAA's security regulations. GWT has developed a HIPAA security program for hospitals which can help assist in satisfying the security regulations.

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If you require any assistance or want to learn more about the HIPAA security program, please call any of the attorneys at GWT.

¹ See Government Health IT, January 17, 2008 at www.govhealthit.com/online/news/350176-1.html.

About Garfunkel, Wild & Travis, P.C.

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