

HIPAA

Monthly Alert

APRIL 2018

Liberty's staff is our front-line not only in client care and client service, but also in safeguarding the privacy and security of our clients' protected health information (PHI). That said, Liberty's risk continues to grow with:

- The increased number of interconnected "smart" devices.
- The increased use of interconnected medical record and billing systems.
- The increased use of applications and cloud computing.

With the increase in interconnectedness has come a ten (10) percent increase over the past two (2) years in the number of healthcare systems that have had instances of security-related HIPAA violations or cybersecurity attacks impacting PHI. The increase in HIPAA violations includes:

- Data incidents due to ransomware events – If you detect any security concern, contact your direct supervisor immediately. Each member of the Liberty staff can be a guardian of our clients' PHI or the staff can unknowingly be a cause of a HIPAA violation or data incident so 'report, report, report' any concern you may have about your clients' PHI or the safety of your PHI data.
- Lack of compliance with annual HIPAA training – Liberty's annual training on HIPAA privacy and security is designed for our Liberty staff to have ongoing training on HIPAA in order to protect Liberty, our staff, and our customers. If you have any questions after completing your annual Liberty HIPAA training, please notify your direct supervisor. Liberty's annual HIPAA training is on Relias and you will be notified when you are required to take the training. Please comply with the annual training due date so that you comply with this annual requirement.
- Lack of ongoing updates on emerging HIPAA concerns – Liberty utilizes both monthly email alerts and the quarterly Liberty QualityCare® newsletter to communicate new or emerging HIPAA concerns that could harm our staff or customers. Please continue providing Liberty with your feedback on these communication tools since it only improves our HIPAA compliance with our clients' PHI.

During any HIPAA audit, Liberty will be asked for documentation on our compliance with reporting data incidents, annual training, and our ongoing updates. Your compliance with Liberty's 'read and sign' standard operating procedures, reporting of data incidents, compliance with annual training and reading the updates from your monthly HIPAA email alerts and your quarterly Liberty QualityCare® newsletter are well documented and very appreciated by Liberty. Keep up your good work and diligence.

References

<https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/security/laws-regulations/index.html>

<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/july-2017-ocr-cyber-newsletter.pdf>

<https://healthitsecurity.com/news/hipaa-data-breaches-cyber-attacks-reported-by-47-of-orgs>

Please look for next month's HIPAA alert delivered through your email.
You can also find the HIPAA monthly alerts on Employee Self Service (ESS)

Should you have any questions regarding this alert please contact: Judith Ann Shields
Email: judith.shields@libertyhealth.com | Phone: 610.668.8800 ext.193



Liberty Healthcare Corporation
THE FREEDOM TO SUCCEED™