HIPAA
Monthly Alert
JANUARY 2018

In early September 2017, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services) presented the conference, "Safeguarding Health Information: Building Assurance through HIPAA Security – 2017." A presenter from OCR said that in less than eight years (July 2009 through July 2017), there have been over 2,000 reports of large breaches (affecting over 500 individuals). For the month of January, we want to outline the importance of safeguarding information. All Liberty staff must be in full compliance with the HIPAA Security and Privacy Rules.

1. **Theft and Loss of Laptops:** Accounted for 48% of the breaches.

2. **Hacking:** Now related to 17% of breaches.

3. **Small Breaches:** These are breaches that affected less than 500 individuals per incident. Small breaches number nearly 300,000. Individuals affected in total are over 174 million.

4. **Enforcement Issues:** Centered on improper disclosure of PHI without proper authorization, lack of business associate agreements, insufficient audit controls, lack of implementing safeguards, and issues involving the failure of managing identified risk. **Examples**: Insufficient or inaccurate risk analysis, lack of transmission security, improper disposal of PHI, and disaster recovery planning.

References:
https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/special-topics/cloud-computing/index.html

https://www.nist.gov/news-events/events/2017/09/safeguarding-health-information-builidng-assurance-through-hippa-security/index.html

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).

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