

**ELECTRONIC HEALTHCARE NETWORK
ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
(EHNAC)**

**Healthcare Network Accreditation
Program for
Medical Billers
(HNAP-MB)**

For The
HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

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For additional information see the EHNAC Web Site
<http://www.EHNAC.org/>

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Prefatory Notes:



If a criterion is marked with a green checkmark  then it is MANDATORY. Any MANDATORY criteria that are not fully completed will cause the candidate to FAIL the entire site review.

Please refer to EHNAC's [Glossary of Terms](#) for definitions of any unfamiliar terms referenced throughout this document. The Glossary of Terms is located at the EHNAC web site, www.ehnac.org.





Site Review Note: EHNAC realizes that some of the supporting documentation might not be able to be included in the Self-Assessment for many reasons. If you deem this to be the case, clearly indicate what your supporting documentation is, why you are not including it in your Self-Assessment and how you will demonstrate it during the on-site review with the site reviewer. Please note that your organization may need to compensate EHNAC for an additional site visit, if the time required to review the documents exceeds one day.

CRITERIA I: PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Accredited companies must have appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of protected healthcare information. These safeguards must protect against any anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such information. As a practical matter, the required level of security is intended to be commensurate with the attendant risks.

Narrative Summary indicating how the evidence reflects compliance with Criteria I.

I.A. MEASURES TO ENSURE DATA PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY 45 CFR §§ 164.530(c) - Accredited Companies

- I.A. 1.  Candidate must have policies to protect against disclosure of PHI.
- I.A. 2. Candidate must have policies and procedures in place to ensure continuing compliance with data security policies, including secure methods of access to and transmission of data.
- I.A. 3. Candidate must use PHI about individuals only as is necessary for the processing of appropriate electronic transmissions as authorized by the trading partner.
- I.A. 4. Candidate must refrain from selling or otherwise using PHI in such a way as to violate privacy or confidentiality.
- I.A. 5.  Candidate must utilize strong encryption, user authentication, message integrity, and support for non-repudiation as security measures in compliance with any legislation requiring it. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(a)(2)(iv)
- I.A. 6. Candidate must use effective controls and implement procedures for guarding against, detecting, and reporting malicious software.
45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(B)
- I.A. 7.  Candidate must maintain a list of all individuals, contractors, and business associates with access to Electronic PHI.
- I.A. 8.  Candidate must have policies in place that prohibit individuals from storing unencrypted PHI on portable devices.

- I.A. 9. Candidate must demonstrate that appropriate security is in place for wireless networks to protect the privacy of data during transmission and in storage.
- I.A. 10. Candidate must demonstrate that configuration standards are in place that include patch management for systems which store, transmit, or access Electronic PHI, including workstations.
- I.A. 11. Candidate must implement a security measure to ensure that electronically transmitted PHI is not improperly modified without detection. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(e)(2)(i)
- I.A. 12. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules.


CRITERIA II: TECHNICAL PERFORMANCE

Accredited companies must provide their customers with the capability to communicate messages and records electronically (e.g. Electronic Data Interchange) by complying with the following technical performance criteria:

- Transmission of data
- Customer service inquiries
- Timeliness
- Accuracy
- System availability
- Compliance with industry standards
- Capacity monitoring
- Auditing
- Storage and retrieval
- Internet

Narrative Summary indicating how the evidence reflects compliance with Standard II.

II.A. TRANSMISSION OF DATA

II.A. 1.  Candidate must comply with all applicable federal and state requirements and regulations.

II.B. CUSTOMER SERVICE INQUIRIES

Third party medical billers are responsible for patient inquiries about a bill and generally have very few inquiries from direct customers, or providers. Therefore these criteria apply to inquiries from indirect customers as well, which are typically patients.

II.B. 1. Candidate must be able to resolve 50% of calls from patients upon the initial call.

II.B. 2. Candidate must have an acknowledgment system and a trading partner tracking system that documents response times and procedures that are appropriate to different levels of requests.

II.B. 3. Candidate must be able to acknowledge all customer service inquiries within one business day.

II.B. 4. Candidate must have documented escalation procedures to follow the inquiry to completion.

II.C. TIMELINESS

II.C. 1. Candidate must convert source data into coded and data-entered encounters within 2 business days.

II.C. 2. Candidate must convert coded and entered encounters into transmitted claims within 1 business day of completed coding and data entry.

II.C. 3. Candidate must post valid (re-associated) remittance files within one business day of receipt.


II.D. ACCURACY

II.D. 1. Candidate must have audit procedures in place to provide evidence of completeness and accuracy of work.

II.D. 2. Candidate must maintain a completeness audit that demonstrates source material is evaluated against relevant logs and records to assure completeness within 30 days.

II.D. 3. Candidate must maintain an internal coding audit that demonstrates adherence to appropriate compliance guidelines as evidenced within the billing company's record.


II.E. SERVICE AVAILABILITY

II.E. 1.  Candidate must have a minimum system availability and appropriate redundancy that assures system access for 98.0% of contracted and/or advertised hours. This requirement shall not preclude acts of God.

II. F. *Intentionally Left Blank*

II.G. COMPLIANCE WITH INDUSTRY STANDARDS
45 CFR §§ 162

II.G. 1. Candidate must have the capability to support generally accepted industry standard formats and those required by federal and state regulations in a line of business as specified in the trading partner agreement.

II.G. 2.  Candidate must have an established implementation plan for compliance with all applicable federal and state adopted rules and implementation guides.

This implementation plan should include at least an implementation sequence and timetable for implementation within mandatory timeframes.

- II.G. 3. Candidate must maintain a current analysis of the laws of any state that Candidate might reasonably believe apply to information stored or transmitted by Candidate (e.g., security breach notification laws) that could be used to personally identify individuals; and, when applicable, a plan for compliance with such laws.

II. H. Intentionally Left Blank

II. I. Intentionally Left Blank


II.J CAPACITY MONITORING

- II.J. 1. Candidate must have the ability to measure system capacity and have developed an on-going monitoring capability for that system capacity.
- II.J. 2. Candidate must have a hardware capacity plan for handling peak load and expansion to ensure compliance with all contracted and/or advertised services.


II.K. AUDITING



- II.K. 1. Candidate must provide a clear and accurate audit trail permitting monitoring of all data transactions for a minimum of seven years.

II.L. STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

- II.L. 1.  Candidate must have an off-site minimum of six-month back-up archive, storage and retrieval capability for all transactions and adhere to all applicable Federal and State regulations.
- II.L. 2. Candidate must have, or show progress toward having, a seven-year back-up archive, storage, and regeneration capability for transactions.
- II.L. 3. Candidate must have the ability to regenerate an electronic transaction going back 90 days within two business days.

II.M. INTERNET

- II.M. 1.  Candidate must have a firewall configured to protect the system integrity.

- II.M. 2. Candidate must utilize strong encryption for all healthcare data sent over the electronic communications network conforming to the minimum standards detailed in the most recent CMS Internet Security Policy.
- II.M. 3. Candidate must authenticate the trading partner sending or receiving healthcare data.
- II.M. 4. Candidate must provide capacity and bandwidth adequate for business needs. Candidate must have a process in place to monitor Internet bandwidth and communication server performance daily.
- II.M. 5.  Candidate must have in place processes and procedures to monitor and/or block intrusion attempts or attacks from the Internet and provide alarms to appropriate personnel.
- II.M. 6. Candidate must have documented procedures to respond to a successful intrusion or attack from the Internet within 2 hours of alarm generation or notification.
- II.M. 7.  Candidate must on at least a quarterly basis conduct threat and vulnerability assessments through an independent third party and have an improvement process based on the results of those assessments.
- II.M. 8. Candidate must have documented procedures to check public security web sites, Web O/S vendor and web application vendors on at least a weekly basis to identify potential security weaknesses and update web server O/S and application configurations to eliminate or reduce those known weaknesses.
- II.M. 9. Candidate must have documented web server security configurations to protect the web server from attack or intrusion.
- II.M. 10. Candidate must not have any file transfer servers configured to reside on a firewall in such a manner that the file transfer server may be able to be accessed through a "port forwarding" configuration through the firewall.
- II.M. 11. Candidate must ensure that internal databases cannot be modified directly through an external web site, unless made securely, by authenticated users and contain integrity checks. Otherwise, all modifications to databases are to be made first only to external databases (e.g. those kept on the web server) and integrity checks are to be made on the external database prior to synchronization with any internal database.

CRITERIA III: BUSINESS PRACTICES

Accredited companies must have business practices that facilitate the maintenance of the technical performance Criteria and must exhibit truth-in-advertising -- i.e., the company must actually be doing what it says it will do for customers.

Narrative Summary indicating how the evidence reflects compliance with Standard III.

III.A TRUTH-IN-ADVERTISING

III.A. 1. Candidate must meet their own published service levels.

III.A. 2. Candidate must have policies and procedures to assure that any re-marketing agreements do not endanger compliance with the EHNAC Healthcare Network Accreditation Criteria.


CRITERIA IV: RESOURCES

Accredited companies must possess the physical, human and administrative resources necessary to maintain a high level of technical performance and business practices. These resources must include: plant and equipment facilities adequate to conduct the company's current and anticipated business volume; qualified professional and staff personnel; and professional development programs to keep up with changes in the industry. While resource-related Criteria are primarily expressed in terms of inputs, they are required because of their basic role as guarantors of effective outcome performance.

Narrative Summary indicating how the evidence reflects compliance with Standard IV.

IV. A. Intentionally Left Blank

IV.B. PHYSICAL RESOURCES


IV.B. 1.  Candidate must have physical resources (including plant facilities and the relevant hardware and software) adequate for accomplishing the stated mission.

IV.B. 2. Candidate must have formal facility expansion plans in place to anticipate increased growth. These plans should be reviewed regularly.

IV.C PERSONNEL

IV.C. 1. Candidate must have sufficient qualified personnel to perform all tasks associated with accomplishment of the stated mission.

IV.C. 2. Candidate must ensure that employees receive effective, relevant job training, and access to professional development opportunities necessary to remain current in knowledge and skills.

IV.C. 3.  Candidate must provide, at a minimum, annual job training, which includes privacy, and confidentiality and security. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)(i)

CRITERIA V: SECURITY

Accredited companies must comply with the applicable standards, implementation specifications, and requirements of the HIPAA Security Rule with respect to Electronic Protected Health Information (PHI). When applicable to them, accredited companies must comply with state information security statutes and rules (e.g., security breach notification laws). Accredited companies must;

- Ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all Electronic PHI that the company creates, receives, maintains, or transmits;
- Protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such information;
- Protect against any reasonably anticipated uses or disclosures of such information that are not permitted by the HIPAA Privacy Rule; and
- Ensure compliance with the HIPAA Security Rule by its Workforce.
- Implement procedures to identify what individual state health care security statutes and rules may have application; conduct a gap analysis with HIPAA's Security Rules and deploy the necessary systems to ensure compliance.

Narrative Summary indicating how the evidence reflects compliance with Standard V.

V.A. ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HYBRID ENTITIES


45 CFR §§ 164.314

V.A. 1. Candidate must have policies and procedures to ensure that its healthcare component protects PHI from another component within the candidate organization in accordance with the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules.

V.A. 2. Candidate must document the designated health care components of any Hybrid Entity in accordance with the Security Rule.

V.B. ADMINISTRATIVE SAFEGUARDS

45 CFR §§ 164.308



V.B. 1.  Candidate must conduct an accurate and thorough assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of PHI held by the candidate. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(A)

V.B. 2. Candidate must implement an enforcement policy that will authorize the candidate to apply appropriate sanctions against Workforce members' contractors, vendors and their employees who are not in compliance with the security policies and procedures of the candidate. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(C)

V.B. 3. Candidate must implement procedures to regularly review records of information system activity, such as audit logs, access reports, and security incident tracking

reports and maintain/report discrepancies to the security officer for review. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(1)(ii)(D), 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(C)

- V.B. 4. Candidate must identify the privacy official and the security official, and those persons' backups, that are responsible for the development, implementation and enforcement of the policies and procedures required by the Privacy and Security Rules. These responsibilities must be documented, including a description of their responsibilities, and communicated internally. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(2)
- V.B. 5. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to ensure that all members of the candidate's Workforce have access only to Electronic PHI necessary to perform their work assignment and to prevent access to those Workforce members who do not have a need to access Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(3)
- V.B. 6. Candidate must implement procedures to determine that the access of a Workforce member, vendor, contractor and their employees to Electronic PHI is appropriate and is limited to only that which is necessary to the performance of work duties. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(3)(ii)(B)
- V.B. 7. Candidate must implement termination procedures for withdrawing access to Electronic PHI when the employment of a Workforce member ends, the Workforce member's duties no longer justify the need to access Electronic PHI, or as required by determinations made as specified in criterion V.B.6. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(3)(ii)(C)
- V.B. 8. Candidate must implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the privacy of PHI with the applicable requirements in the HIPAA Privacy Rule. 45 CFR §§ 164.530(c)
- V.B. 9. Candidate must, if acting as part of a larger organization, implement policies and procedures that protects and secures the electronic PHI handled by the candidate organization from unauthorized access by the larger organization as well as their employees, vendors and contractors. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(4)(ii)(A)
- V.B. 10. Candidate and their contractors must maintain a listing of all hardware and software used to store, transmit or maintain Electronic PHI, including all Primary Domain Controllers (PDCs) and servers. Documentation must be provided showing which software resides on which hardware.
- V.B. 11. Candidate must implement policies and procedures that establish, document, review, and modify a user's right of access to a workstation, transaction, program, or process. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(4)(ii)(C)

- V.B. 12. Candidate must implement and document a security awareness and training program for all members of the candidate's Workforce, including management. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)
- V.B. 13. Candidate must implement and document periodic security updates, reminders and refresher programs for the members of the candidate's Workforce, including management. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(A)
- V.B. 14. Candidate must implement and document procedures for creating, changing, and safeguarding passwords and/or other login procedures. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(D)
- V.B. 15.  Candidate must have a process in place to identify and respond to suspected or known security incidents; mitigate harmful effects of security incidents that are known to the candidate or its Workforce; and appropriately document security incidents and their outcomes. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(6)(ii)
- V.B. 16. Candidate must establish written policies and procedures for responding to an emergency or other occurrence such as fire, vandalism, system failure, or natural disasters that impacts systems that contain Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)
- V.B. 17. Candidate must establish and implement procedures to create, archive, index and maintain retrievable exact copies of Electronic PHI if candidate stores PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(A)
- V.B. 18.  Candidate must establish and implement disaster recovery procedures to restore any loss of data, with the Recovery Point Objective not to exceed 48 hours and the Recovery Time Objective not to exceed 48 hours for critical transaction processing. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(B)
- V.B. 19. Candidate must establish, document, and implement emergency mode operations procedures to enable continued protection of the Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(C)
- V.B. 20. Candidate must implement and document procedures for periodic testing, assessment, review and revision of contingency plans. Testing and all appropriate revisions should occur no less than annually. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(D)
- V.B. 21. Candidate must establish a process and perform an annual applications and data criticality analysis by assessing the relative criticality of specific applications and data in support of other contingency plan components. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(7)(ii)(E)

V.B. 22. Candidate must establish a process to continuously monitor and perform an annual technical and non-technical evaluation based on applicable Federal and State regulations and standards and subsequently respond to changes affecting the security of Electronic PHI that demonstrates the extent to which an entity's security policies and procedures meet the requirements of Federal and State regulations. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(a)(8)

V.B. 23. Candidate must have Business Associate contracts in place that obtain satisfactory assurances that the Business Associate will uphold applicable Federal and State regulations. 45 CFR §§ 164.308(b)(1)

V.C. PHYSICAL SAFEGUARDS
45 CFR §§ 164.310

V.C. 1. Candidate must implement and document policies and procedures to limit physical access to its electronic information systems and the facility or facilities in which they are housed, while also providing that all properly authorized persons have adequate access. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(a)(1)

V.C. 2. Candidate must establish procedures that allow secure facility access in support of restoration of lost data under the disaster recovery plan and emergency mode operations plan in the event of an emergency. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(a)(2)(i)


V.C. 3. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to safeguard the facility and the equipment therein from unauthorized physical access, tampering, and theft. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(a)(2)(ii)

V.C. 4. Candidate must implement procedures to control and validate a person's access to facilities based on their role or function including visitor control and control of access to software programs for testing and revision. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(a)(2)(iii)


V.C. 5. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to document repairs and modifications to the physical components of a facility which are related to security such as hardware, walls, doors, and locks. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(a)(2)(iv)

V.C. 6. Candidate must implement policies and procedures that specify the proper functions to be performed, the manner in which those functions are to be performed, and the physical attributes of the surroundings of a specific workstation or class of workstation that can access Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(b)

V.C. 7. Candidate must implement policies and procedures, including a log, governing the receipt and removal of hardware and electronic media that contain Electronic PHI into and out of a facility, and the movement of these items within the facility. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(d)(1)


 V.C. 8. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to address the final disposition of Electronic PHI and/or the hardware or electronic media on which it is stored. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(d)(2)(i)

V.C. 9. Candidate must implement procedures for removal of Electronic PHI from electronic media before the media are made available for re-use. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(d)(2)(ii)

 V. C. 10. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to address the final disposition of paper containing PHI, including the appropriate shredding and disposal of such documents.

V.C. 11. Candidate must implement policies and procedures to create a retrievable exact copy of Electronic PHI before movement of equipment where PHI is stored. 45 CFR §§ 164.310(d)(2)(iv)

V.D. TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS
45 CFR §§ 164.312

 V.D. 1. Candidate must implement technical policies and procedures for electronic information systems that maintain Electronic PHI to allow access only to those persons or software programs that have been granted access rights. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(a)(1)

V.D. 2. Candidate must assign a unique name and/or number for identifying and tracking all systems' user identity. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(a)(2)(i)

V.D. 3. Candidate must establish procedures for accessing necessary Electronic PHI during an emergency. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(a)(1)(ii)

V.D. 4. Candidate must implement electronic procedures that terminate an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(a)(1)(iii)

V.D. 5. Candidate must implement hardware, software, and/or procedural mechanisms that record and examine activity in information systems that contain or use Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.312(b)

V.E. ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATE CONTRACTS
45 CFR §§ 164.308(b)(1)

- V.E. 1. Candidate must require Business Associates to implement administrative, physical, and technical policies and procedures that are reasonable, appropriate, and required by Federal and State Law to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the Electronic PHI it creates, receives, maintains, or transmits on behalf of the candidate.
- V.E. 2. Candidate must require Business Associates to ensure that any agent, including a subcontractor, to whom it provides such information agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate policies and procedures to protect it.
- V.E. 3. Candidate must require Business Associates to report to the candidate any security incident of which it becomes aware.
- V.E. 4. Candidate must require Business Associates to authorize termination of the Business Associates' contract by the candidate, in the event candidate determines that the Business Associate has violated a material term of the contract.

V.F. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- V.F. 1. Candidate must record and maintain the policies and procedures implemented to comply with applicable Federal and State regulations, and policies and procedures should be available to those that need access to them. 45 CFR §§ 164.316(b)(1)(i), 45 CFR §§ 164.316(b)(2)(ii)
- V.F. 2. Candidate must maintain a written and/or electronic record of any action, activity, or assessment that may be required by applicable Federal and State regulations. 45 CFR §§ 164.316(b)(1)(ii)
- V.F. 3. Candidate must retain the documentation, referred to herein, for 6 years from the date of creation or the date when it was last in effect, whichever is later. 45 CFR §§ 164.316(b)(2)(i)

V.F. 4. Candidate must review documentation annually, and update as needed, in response to environmental or operational changes affecting the security of the Electronic PHI. 45 CFR §§ 164.316(b)(2)(iii)