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Why HIPAA Compliance Should Not Be Managed by Your IT Provider By Dr. John Flucke



As cybersecurity threats increase and HIPAA regulations evolve, dental practices and other healthcare-related businesses must take a closer look at how their compliance programs are structured. One critical consideration is who is overseeing your HIPAA compliance—and whether that entity can do so without bias.

Many practices rely on their IT provider to manage HIPAA compliance because it feels convenient. However, having your IT vendor both implement and audit compliance measures introduces a serious conflict of interest. To ensure accountability and protect your practice, HIPAA compliance should be handled by a qualified, independent third party.

The Conflict of Interest

When the same company is responsible for setting up systems and then certifying their own work, the integrity of the audit process is compromised. This is especially true in the event of a breach or OCR audit, where unbiased documentation and oversight are critical.

Think of it this way: Just like how having your tax preparer also audit their own work would compromise the fairness of the process, having internal teams self-audit for HIPAA compliance creates a similar conflict. Objectivity goes out the window when the same people responsible for compliance are also grading their own performance.

What the Regulators Say

Benefits of a Third-Party HIPAA Partner

- Unbiased Risk Assessments: Independent auditors are more likely to identify overlooked vulnerabilities and gaps in documentation.
- **Improved Accountability:** When compliance oversight is separated from implementation, everyone is held to a higher standard.
- Stronger Legal Protection: In the event of an investigation, demonstrating that you used an impartial third party strengthens your credibility.
- Alignment with Industry Best Practices: Reputable compliance strategies follow a separation-of-duties model that reduces liability and improves security outcomes.

Final Thoughts

While your IT provider is essential for implementing secure systems, they should not be the ones auditing those same systems for compliance. Instead, work with an independent HIPAA compliance expert who can objectively assess your risk and ensure your practice meets every standard.

This approach not only helps you stay compliant—it strengthens your cybersecurity posture and better protects your patients' information.

Ready to schedule a HIPAA security risk assessment?

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Objectivity goes out the window when the same people responsible for compliance are also grading their own performance. **77**

Dr. John Flucke is in private practice in Lee's Summit, MO, and consults with manufacturers



helping to develop techniques, technologies and products. He also serves as Technology Editor and Chief Dental Editor for *Dental Products Report* magazine and writes the popular dental blog, "Ramblings of Dentistry's Technology Evangelist," which covers technology in healthcare.

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SERVICES & PRICING

(COSRear)	Backup & Recove	ery			
	DDS Rescue Backup Disaster & Recovery*** Starting at \$249/month	File-Level Backup for Cloud-Based Offices Starting at \$199/month with \$299 installation*			
Estimated Recovery Time	1 hour	5-8 hours+**			
Spare Server or Workstation Required for Recovery	-	X			
Local Backup Protection Against Ransomware	X	-			
Cloud Backup Protection Against Ransomware	X	X			
Ability to Backup Domain	X	-			
Professionally Monitored 24/7 to Ensure Clean Backups	Х	X			
Daily Verification and Validation Emailed to Customer	X	-			
Experienced Dental IT Support Staff to Assist with Troubleshooting and Recovery	X	X			
HIPAA Compliance and Training Included	X	X			
Recommended Environment	Primary office with hosted databases onsite - all PMS supported	Supported onsite PMS: EagleSoft & Dentrix only. Secondary satellite office or any office using cloud - based PMS (Fuse, Ascend, Curve, Dentrix Enterprise), No 3D and the Windows domain is not critical			
\$1,000 Backup Guarantee ⁺	X	-			

* Installation fee waived for current customers who convert to Cloud. External hard-drive required (approx. \$175)

** Varies based on data size, performance of client IT, access to a spare workstation or server & other factors

*** RAID1 Server device required (approx. \$1850)

[†]Terms and conditions apply. See ddsrescue.com for details

	Network Security Services					Monthly Fee (Per Computer)		
One-time Setup Fee \$299	Enterprise-Level Firewall Security Management	Enterprise- Level Antivirus	Professionally Managed Windows Updates	Enterprise- Level HIPAA Compliance	Quarterly Hardware Report	Full Remote IT Service	Workstations	Servers
White Glove IT & Security Advantage Plan*	X	X	X	X	x	Х	\$59.99	\$129.99
Security Advantage Plan*	X	X	Х	X	X		\$16.99	\$24.99

* Minimum monthly charge. VPN fee is additional. Firewall not included.

NETWORKING & SOFTWARE

- Data management
- Paperless consult
- Server encryption
- Guest WiFi setup
- PMS migration to new provider
- Network printer/scanner setup
- Remote access setup (on server)
- Office 365 install & setup
- Domain creation & server installation
- Practice management software upgrade
- Configuring & joining workstations to domain

HARDWARE

- Firewalls
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- and HIPAA training



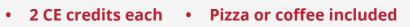
Consulting

DDS Rescue can manage your software or hardware upgrades or work with your current IT provider

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- Switch install and Setup
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- Switches
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