



Healthcare Policies

Overview

Sentriion Healthcare Policies work with your information infrastructure to secure protected health information (PHI) against transmission to unauthorized recipients, as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). It's the automatic way to ensure that personally identifiable medical information is only available to those who need it, such as a doctor or pharmacist, and never to those who don't, such as a researcher or marketer.

Audience

Healthcare providers, plans, and clearinghouses subject to HIPAA regulations—including medical, nursing, records, compliance, security, messaging, and other departments that deal with PHI.

Key Features and Functionality Overview

It's a cliché that's been used in countless movies and TV shows: "Give it to me straight, doc—is it serious?" On the topic of HIPAA, the answer is: Nothing could be more serious. It's not just an issue of law and the need to protect your business from lawsuits and regulatory penalties. HIPAA is also about something much more fundamental: the dignity of the patients you serve.

The challenge posed by HIPAA is to protect that dignity while also giving healthcare providers and insurers unrestricted access to the information they need to do their jobs. Whether that means getting patients back on their feet or processing claims quickly and accurately, each episode of care is likely to involve communications between many types of healthcare specialists, each having their own information needs.

Physicians and pharmacists used to be the last bastion of computer-aversion. No more. Virtually all medical information is digitized now. Whenever that information is tied to a specific patient through a patient number, social security number, phone number, or any other identifier, it constitutes PHI and is subject to HIPAA privacy rules that prohibit the disclosure of any information beyond the "minimum necessary" required to accomplish a specific purpose.

Because it's so easy to hit the "Send" button and inadvertently route PHI to the wrong person—or even to the right person, but in unencrypted form—you need a policy-based solution that works in the mail stream to automatically identify and respond to PHI in messages and attachments. With Sentriion Healthcare Policies, you're protected. Depending on the specific, custom policy that is triggered by a noncompliant email or attachment, the application can:

- Block the message and notify the sender of the violation
- Quarantine the message and create an entry in the Incident Remediation and Reporting Application for further review
- Encrypt and send the message using the Voltage or S/MIME Encryption Applications

Understanding what HIPAA requires is the easy part. The challenge for automatic HIPAA enforcement is to pull the right data from the vast number of possible data sources, and to apply the right policies for each organizational function and role. Whether you're a small clinic, a large research hospital, or a vast, multi-state HMO, our Professional Services team works with you to fine-tune PHI data sources and HIPAA policies to your precise needs. The best policy sets, the most efficient implementation, and the best customization: Sentriion Healthcare Policies are your Rx for complete HIPAA health.