

2.8: HIPAA and the Privacy Rule

HIPAA Compliance and the Privacy Rule

The *Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information* ("Privacy Rule") establishes, for the first time, a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information. A major goal of the **Privacy Rule** is to assure that individuals' health information is properly protected while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and to protect the public's health and well being. The Rule strikes a balance that permits important uses of information, while protecting the privacy of people who seek care and healing.

CONSIDER: What does HIPAA stand for, and when will you need to comply as an HR Professional?



The infographic is divided into two main sections: 'Covered Entities' and 'Business Associates'. The 'Covered Entities' section lists Insurance Companies, Optometrists, Pharmacies, Dentists, and Doctors Offices. The 'Business Associates' section lists MSPs, Shredding Companies, Lawyers, Billing Companies, and Answering Services. A central text box explains that anyone who handles PHI needs to be HIPAA compliant. A 'HIPAA VERIFIED' seal is also present in the top right corner of the infographic.

Covered Entities

A covered entity can be health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses involved in the transmission of protected health information (PHI).

- Insurance Companies
- Optometrists
- Pharmacies
- Dentists
- Doctors Offices

Do I Need to be HIPAA Compliant?

Anyone who handles PHI needs to be HIPAA compliant including but not limited to...

Business Associates

A business associate is any individual or entity that may encounter PHI through business dealings with covered entities.

- MSPs
- Shredding Companies
- Lawyers
- Billing Companies
- Answering Services

Source: [Summary of the HIPPA Privacy Rule](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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