



## 052115 NEWS BLAST

### US Department of Health and Human Services releases a FREE HIPAA Security and Risk Assessment Tool

US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a security risk assessment (SRA) tool to help guide health care providers in small to medium sized offices conduct risk assessments of their practice. The SRA tool is the result of a collaborative effort by the HHS, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), and Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The tool is designed to help practices conduct and document a risk assessment in a thorough, organized fashion at their own pace by allowing them to assess the information security risks in their organizations under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule.

HIPAA requires organizations that handle protected health information (PHI) to regularly review the administrative, physical and technical safeguards they have in place to protect the security of the information. By conducting these risk assessments, health care providers can uncover potential weaknesses in their security policies, processes and systems. Risk assessments also help providers address vulnerabilities, potentially preventing health data breaches or other adverse security events. A vigorous risk assessment process supports improved security of patient health data. Conducting a security risk assessment is a key requirement of the HIPAA Security Rule and a core requirement for providers seeking payment through the Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, commonly known as the Meaningful Use (MU) Program.

The application is available for download via the links below, which produces a report that can be provided to auditors.

#### **Security and Risk Assessment Tool:**

<http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/security-risk-assessment>

#### **Security and Risk Assessment User Guide:**

[http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/risk\\_assessment\\_user\\_guide\\_final\\_3\\_26\\_2014.pdf](http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/risk_assessment_user_guide_final_3_26_2014.pdf)

REMINDER: Notice of Privacy Practices must be provided to all patients to advise how protected health information may be used and shared by the practice. Patients must sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the notice, typically included in the New Patient Packet, Patient Information/Demographic Intake form.

Contact Software Support for assistance or any questions via:

From **MEDPM** or **MEDEHR** Sign On screens, double click on 'support@medtronsoftware.com' to compose an email to the Software Support Dept.

-OR-

Phone: (985) 234-0599 (local)  
(800) 978-0599 (toll free)

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Fax: (985) 234-0609