

# Hospital Secures Data and Achieves HIPAA Compliance

*With data flowing across a hospital, how do you know where it's going and who's accessing it?*

A large hospital, responsible for thousands of sensitive patient records, must also answer to strict Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements to keep the data secure. The hospital was faced with the task of reviewing current HIPAA controls in its environment, as well as data handling relating to its Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system.

To better understand how information moves in and out of the EMR, the organization needed a data flow diagram. The hospital also realized that a trusted partner would best be able to understand HIPAA requirements and secure its network and data.

## What was the best way to approach this challenge?

- Create a data flow diagram to map data movement and access across the hospital.
- Determine current data handling practices around the EMR and review against HIPAA requirements.
- Conduct staff interviews to ensure current policies are in-line with HIPAA standards, and consistent across the hospital.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

**Organization Size:**  
Nearly 3,000 employees

**Organization Industry:**  
Healthcare

**Challenge:**  
Review current HIPAA controls and data handling around the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system, and complete a data flow diagram.

## IMPACT

- Secured view into how patient data is accessed
- Identified areas for security improvement
- Achieved HIPAA compliance

## HIPAA SERVICES:

### Reviewing Process and Answering Requirements



#### Gathering Information

Optiv used the client's network diagrams and documentation of the current HIPAA environment and associated practices to set baselines.



#### Data Flow

Armed with information, Optiv created a data flow diagram, determining the current data handling practices around the hospital's EMR and reviewing that against requirements of HIPAA standards.



#### Staff Interviews

Optiv conducted interviews with the staff responsible for information security of the EMR to ensure current policies and processes were in-line with the required elements of HIPAA standards, and there was consistency in policy and information across the organization.



#### Analysis

After gathering all necessary information, Optiv consultants analyzed the current state of the environment for security and compliancy.

### Standardizing Data Flow and Becoming Compliant

While it is important to meet HIPAA standards, organizations should also be aware of how patient information is being used, and who is accessing it, allowing the organization to maintain full control of sensitive records.

Optiv addressed the client's challenge to meet strict HIPAA standards and understand its flow of patient data. As a result, the client:

- Learned more about the safety of its sensitive patient information.
- Achieved full visibility into exactly how data flows through its electronic medical records system.
- Received recommendations to improve its information security.
- Attained HIPAA compliance.



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