

A wooden gavel and a stethoscope are positioned on a white surface. The gavel is at the top, and the stethoscope is below it, with its chest piece and earpieces visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Five Reasons Why Pregnancy Medical Clinics Should Become HIPAA Compliant

From KlikPublications eBooks
A Division of Chase Advancement Inc.

<http://klikpublications.wordpress.com/>

KlikPublications

Why Become HIPAA Compliant



Beth Chase is the CEO of Chase Advancement Inc, a group dedicated to protecting and advancing pregnancy medical clinics. KlikPublications is a division of Chase Advancement Inc

Phone: 509-886-4894

url: www.chaseadvancement.com

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bethchase>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bchaseinc>

This KlikPublications eBook is free, and it's licensed under Creative Commons, which means that you have permission to post this, email this, print this and pass it along for to anyone you'd like, as long as you do not make any changes or edits, whatsoever, to its contents or digital format. In fact, I would appreciate it if you could pass it along to others.

What is HIPAA?

Short for
*Health Insurance
Portability and
Accountability Act*



- HIPAA provides national standards to protect the privacy of personal health information and two of the HIPAA components include:

- **Security (1996)**

The Security Rule, a Federal law that protects health information in electronic form, requires entities covered by HIPAA to ensure that electronic protected health information is secure.

- **Privacy (2003)**

*The Privacy Rule, a Federal law, gives you rights over your health information and sets rules and limits on who can look at and receive your health information. **The Privacy Rule applies to all forms of individuals' protected health information, whether electronic, written, or oral***

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html>

What Patient Information Is Protected?



- *Information your doctors, nurses, and other health care providers put* in patient's medical record
- *Conversations nurses have* about patient care or treatment with others (i.e., patient coaches, client advocates)
- *Most other health information* about your patients held by those who must follow these laws
- *Billing information* about the patients at your clinic (i.e., PMCs billing Medicaid)

FIVE Reasons Why Pregnancy Medical Clinics Should Become HIPAA Compliant

1. HIPAA compliance is *the expected* standard of care for medical clinics. In our culture today people assume that a medical clinic is functioning under federal and state regulations. However, most states do not regulate medical facilities. Rather, state agencies regulate the medical professionals who are providing medical services in the clinic.
Question: Do you think that the medical clinics and social service agencies in your community who refer women to your pregnancy medical clinic would be surprised or alarmed that your PMC was not HIPAA compliant?
2. HIPAA compliance will improve your patient services. HIPAA sets the standard for accessing and handling of patient's medical information. HIPAA compliance helps to assure your patients that their medical records will be safe, confidential and private at your medical clinic.
Question: What do you think a upper-middle class mother of a pregnant teenage girl would do if she found out that your medical clinic did not comply with HIPAA privacy standards? Would she come to your clinic anyway or would she take her daughter elsewhere?
3. HIPAA compliance helps you to defend against claims of being a false or bogus medical clinic by radical pro-abortion groups. If you want to be recognized as a legitimate medical clinic, then function as one would expect a medical clinic to function. Don't give radical pro-abortion groups reasons why they can press public officials and legislators to regulate pregnancy medical clinics by not being HIPAA compliant.
Question: Are radical pro-abortion groups trying to get bills passed against pregnancy centers in your state? How do you think your legislator would feel if they found out that your medical clinic was non-compliant with HIPAA? Would it make a difference to your legislators that your organization is exempt from HIPAA compliance?

“Perception can be more powerful than truth”

FIVE Reasons Why Pregnancy Medical Clinics Should Become HIPAA Compliant (cont)

4. HIPAA compliance helps to protect the reputation of your Medical Director. Physician's are to conduct business consistently at all of their medical clinic locations. Therefore, if they are HIPAA compliant at one facility it is arguable that they should be HIPAA at the pregnancy clinic.

Question: Is your Medical Director comfortable with your pregnancy medical clinic not being HIPAA compliant?

5. HIPAA compliance provides assurances to your patients. Women come to your medical clinic expecting the same standard of care they would receive at their regular doctor's office. Opinion can be more powerful than truth.

Question: Do you think your donors perspective is that you are HIPAA complaint and if so, what would happen if there was an article written in your local newspaper about your pregnancy clinic and it mentioned that you were not "even HIPAA compliant"?

“Why would you not want to get your medical clinic HIPAA compliant?”

The Privacy Rule applies to all forms of individuals' protected health information, whether electronic, written, or oral.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html>

Conclusion

1. There are several opinions on mandatory HIPAA compliance for Pregnancy Medical Clinics. The best way for you to decide is to participate in a training course on HIPAA.
2. HIPAA compliance is the perceived standard for how patient's medical records are treated.
3. The benefits of complete HIPAA compliance in areas that apply to Pregnancy Medical Clinics far out weight the challenges associated compliance.

“In strategy it is important to see distant things as if they were close and to take a distanced view of close things.”

Cultural changes are pressing Pregnancy Medical Clinics to change the way they do business.

The power to compete with abortion-providers is linked to the need for Pregnancy Medical Clinics to maintain the highest standards of care.

The impact for relevance

- Understand relevant actions needed to maintain best practices
- Interact with other social service agencies in your community
- Be committed to continuous evaluation of the changes that are driven by our culture, donors, clients and supporters

Attributes

- Department of Human & Health Services (<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/index.html>)
- Legal Tips, NIFLA, September 2002 (www.nifla.org)
- Privacy Rights Clearinghouse (<http://www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs8a-hipaa.htm#3>)
- Your Medical Record Rights in Washington, Joy Pritts, JD, Health Institute Georgetown University (<http://hpi.georgetown.edu/privacy/records.html>)
- HIPAA Survival Guide (<http://www.hipaasurvivalguide.com/hipaa-survival-guide-toc.php>)