

Ensuring Inventory Controls for HIPAA Compliance



Maintain accurate inventory controls for hardware, software and cloud assets to comply with HIPAA mandates

For IT organizations operating within the healthcare sector, complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a critical responsibility. HIPAA is designed to protect patient health information and imposes stringent requirements on healthcare providers, payers, and business partners that have access to patient data.

Central to HIPAA compliance is the implementation of robust inventory control measures. Within this context, this refers to the comprehensive management and documentation of all technology assets that store, process, or transmit protected/personal health information (PHI). This includes not only devices (end-user, field, network, mobile, IoT) but also servers, data storage, software applications and cloud services.

Covered entities must maintain an accurate and detailed inventory of technology assets to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of PHI.

This inventory serves as the foundation for risk analysis, enabling organizations to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities that could lead to PHI breaches. Failure to maintain adequate inventory controls can lead to severe consequences, including security exposures and unauthorized PHI access, legal and financial penalties due to HIPAA violations, reputational damage, and operational disruptions.

Unfortunately, modern healthcare environments, characterized by virtual care and telehealth services, hybrid and remote work, mobile and operational devices, and cloud services, have added layers of complexity to maintaining accurate inventory controls and good technology data hygiene.

Traditional IT Asset Management (ITAM) and CMDB-based solutions usually fall short in addressing this evolving technology landscape. Often, IT teams resort to manually pulling information from multiple sources, aggregating it painstakingly via spreadsheets, and contacting users to reconcile duplicate entries or populate gaps.

Challenges

- Keeping up with the fast pace of adoption of diverse user and healthcare devices, SaaS apps and cloud services
- Tracking and managing assets across remote workforce and growing number of locations
- Resource and cost overruns in obtaining and compiling PHI related inventory data
- Friction between IT and GRC teams due to poor inventory management and inaccurate compliance reporting

Benefits

- Single system for tracking all healthcare technology assets across hardware, software and cloud services
- Confidence in HIPAA inventory controls and PHI compliance policies being met
- Better audit accuracy, efficiency and timeliness with automated workflows to streamline audit preparation tasks
- Cost savings by reducing manual effort, human error and the need for resource intensive IT projects
- Reduced risk of HIPAA fines and failures
- Improved alignment and collaboration between healthcare IT and GRC teams

Ensure HIPAA compliance through rigorous inventory controls

To enhance the accuracy, efficiency and timeliness of compliance with HIPAA inventory controls you need to embrace improvements in tools, processes and automation.

Enterprise Technology Management (ETM) solutions provide an integrated platform to manage and monitor your complete PHI technology landscape. This proactive approach ensures compliance with HIPAA inventory controls as well as other industry standards/frameworks, while also improving your overall security posture.

ETM solutions address the needs of today's dynamic technology environments, overcoming the limitations of traditional ITAM and CMDB solutions by providing:

- Centralized inventory of all PHI technology assets by leveraging existing tools and installed agents for comprehensive coverage, ensuring no asset goes untracked.
- Low-code/no-code workflows and pre-packaged workflow applications that are easily configured for your needs, to assess compliance, remediate issues and automate HIPAA audit preparation tasks.
- Connector integrations with 160+ IT, security and business systems to discover, aggregate, normalize and enrich technology data for single-source audit data.
- Powerful business intelligence, notifications and reporting to keep stakeholders informed and provide evidence for HIPAA auditors to demonstrate compliance.



“Using Oomnitza, we’re able to provide real-time updates on assets and what we have installed, which is a core part of our compliance and certification efforts, including HIPAA and ISO 27001.”

Nemi George
VP, Information Security
Officer & IT Operations
Pacific Dental Services

