

HIPAA

MONTHLY ALERT

June 2017

1. **Privacy and security** are not listed in the acronym “HIPAA” but they are **our biggest challenge**.
2. “The boy who cried wolf” – well the wolf is here.
 - a. On September 23, 2013 the **HIPAA Omnibus Rule** went into effect, greatly increasing federal audits. Fines have increased every year since its inception.
 - b. **What is so different about this Omnibus Rule?** They target practices and business associates of all sizes, not just large entities. The federal government will not tolerate the same old excuses anymore.
 - c. In addition to enforcing what was already on the books for covered entities, the revision equalized the burden between business associates (Liberty) and covered entities (our customers), **resulting in increased penalties**.
 - d. **As the Director of Civil Rights explained** – “with the revenue being brought in from the audit process, the federal government hopes to recoup losses for meaningful use (monies given to encourage the use of electronic medical records), Medicaid, and Medicare. I expect we are going to see large monetary settlements for a long time to come...”
3. Can **YOU** be arrested for wrongful disclosure of protected health information (PHI)? YES, you can. Learn more about it here: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/compliance-enforcement/audit/index.html>.



Please look each month for our HIPAA Monthly Alerts distributed through your email.
Send in any suggestions directly to me: judiths@libertyhealth.com,
HIPAA Privacy Officer: Judith Ann Shields.



Liberty Healthcare Corporation
THE FREEDOM TO SUCCEED™