

HIPAA

MONTHLY ALERT

September 2017

HIPAA Violations and Fines. **"In 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services increased fines based on violations of Privacy and Security"** so we want to be sure that you review some of the following key HIPAA standards in this month's HIPAA alert.

1. **Failure to protect PHI in your possession.**

If you are responsible for any PHI you must secure this PHI. Do not leave your work area without removing paper PHI from your desk and log out of your computer where ePHI is present. On May 23, 2017, a healthcare organization was fined 2.4 million dollars for a failure to protect PHI that was in the possession of employees.

2. **Stolen laptop or paper PHI.**

Notify your supervisor immediately if you lose your laptop or paper PHI. Do not wait to look for the device or the papers that contain PHI. Time is of the essence when you suspect PHI has been stolen. On April 24, 2017, a healthcare organization was fined 2.5 million dollars for a laptop that was stolen from a vehicle outside an employee's home.

3. **Any third-party vendor who handles PHI must sign a business agreement with Liberty.**

On April 20, 2017, a healthcare organization was fined \$31,000.00 for failure to follow this HIPAA regulation.

4. **Report all HIPAA Data incidents.**

On April 12, 2017, a healthcare organization was fined \$400,000.00 for a lack of security management by not reporting and correcting all HIPAA data incidents.

Reference: [Healthcare Privacy- HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/...omnibus...rulemaking/index.html) - <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/...omnibus...rulemaking/index.html>

Please look for next month's HIPAA Alert delivered via email.

Should you have any questions regarding this alert please contact Judith Ann Shields: Email: judith.shields@libertyhealth.com Phone: 610.668.8800 ext. 193