



Avoid HIPAA Penalties and Liability—Use SAFER Guides



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On January 15, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology published detailed guidance referred to as the Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience (SAFER) guides. The SAFER guides are intended to assist healthcare providers identify and minimize potential safety issues associated with electronic health record technology and the maintenance and storage of electronic protected health information. They will also help providers address many of the issues identified by the Office for Civil Rights in the trial HIPAA audits conducted last year.

We encourage the privacy and security officer at each of our client providers to visit the [SAFER website](#) and review the guides.

Each SAFER guide is available in an interactive PDF format and allows providers to self-address areas associated with EHR implementation. The specific areas addressed include:

- High priority practices
- Organizational responsibilities
- Patient identification
- Computerized physician order entry with decision support
- Test results review and follow-up
- Clinician communication
- Contingency planning
- System interfaces
- System configuration

Each SAFER guide contains a checklist of recommended practices to help providers assess EHR safety practices. The guides describe ONC's recommended practices and provide a resource to assist providers develop written action plans based on the assessment process.

If you have any questions about the guide or need assistance with EHR implementation, please contact Cori Loomis or any other member of the firm's Healthcare Transaction & Litigation practice group.

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