BUILDING A
STRONG HIPAA COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

In early April 2020, a physician-owned family medicine clinic in the Northwest was looking to complete a HIPAA Security Risk Analysis.

The physician owners wanted to meet the required measures in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System, in order to maximize their Medicare payments. They also wanted to protect their practice by complying with the HIPAA requirement of a regular Security Risk Analysis (SRA). "Busy medical clinics may never truly appreciate the risk of a devastating HIPAA security audit until it is too late," cautioned one of physicians.

When they asked a healthcare consulting firm for guidance, their consultant referred them to Medcurity. "Medcurity is a company specializing in compliance solutions," their consultant stated, "and their Security Assessment is the best we've seen."

With No Organized Compliance Program

As team members in a smaller organization, this clinic's employees had many roles and responsibilities. They did not have a lot of available resources or time to develop deep expertise in the HIPAA security and privacy rules, or to create documentation from scratch.

As a result, many HIPAA-required policies had not been created or implemented yet. Some necessary security procedures were in place, but not documented, leaving the clinic at risk of a failed audit. Other security procedures were not yet implemented, as the clinic did not have employees or contractors with expertise in these requirements.

Previous security risk assessments had been limited to simple spreadsheets or tools that generated basic pass/fail answers. These assessments did not provide any clarity or recommendations for the practice.

Despite the work they had done to complete previous SRAs and draft initial policies, the physicians still felt that they were at risk.

They Called Medcurity...

Following their consultant's guidance, a physician from the practice reached out to Medcurity.

"We see stories like this nearly every day," said Joe Gellatly, CEO and Co-Founder of Medcurity. "The privacy and security requirements can be overwhelming for a practice. At the same time, the risks are very significant for them."

"Our platform gives them a place to start," Amanda Hepper, President and Co-Founder of Medcurity. "Customers tell us that our platform makes the compliance journey process less intimidating, and they are actually excited about having tools to help them improve and track their progress."

And Completed Their SRA

Two weeks later, the clinic completed the Security Risk Analysis, with guidance from a Medcurity representative. The SRA was conducted via the Medcurity online software.

The explanations and citations included in Medcurity helped clarify the questions and related requirements for the clinic's team. They were relieved to learn that Medcurity also included a policy builder that could help them quickly create customized policies and procedures.

As soon as the SRA was completed in Medcurity, an audit-ready, comprehensive report was automatically generated for the clinic.

The clinic staff then created several of the

required policies, using the smart policy builder in Medcurity. They are now using the dashboard and action items in Medcurity to collaborate and track their continued progress.

As part of their subscription, they have access to Medcurity's support team for any questions for the year following this Security Risk Analysis.

Next year, the clinic plans to use Medcurity to conduct their next security risk analysis. They will be able to pull the previous SRA forward and update it with the changes they've made. The practice is now better protected from breaches and associated penalties. Their staff has access to clear and appropriate policies for how they protect patient information. And the physician owners can now attest to the related Medicare payment program measure with confidence.

"Medcurity is a tightly focused group of experts who can skillfully navigate the chaotic waters of information security," One of the physician owners said.

> "We highly recommend Medcurity as a partner. They can assist with security risk analyses to limit damage should the unthinkable occur."
>
> **- Physician Owner**

He concluded, **"Medcurity allows you to focus on providing outstanding medical care for your patients."**

Contact Medcurity about HIPAA compliance software and services at 509-867-3645 or visit medcurity.com for more information.