



HIPAA Rounds

Security starts with people.

It is human nature to be efficient and find the easiest, fastest way to accomplish a task. We see it everywhere--just think of all the latest life hacks that appear on YouTube and TikTok. But when it comes to data security, shortcuts are too risky.

As part of a robust compliance program, compliance and HIPAA training are provided at initial orientation and annually thereafter. Staff members are asked to sign an attestation of their commitment to compliance following training annually.

What better way exists to find out if your staff are following your organization's privacy and security than to watch the staff in action? Security experts agree that conducting a walk-through of your organization is a good way to make sure staff are following the requirements in your organization's HIPAA Privacy and Security policies and procedures. Use these tips to make sure you know what to look for during a walk-through. Feel free to customize based on your organization's needs.

How to Conduct a Walk-Through

Be anonymous, if possible.

If staff are not aware you are the privacy or security officer, you will be more likely to see violations. Assign someone from the compliance committee to conduct the walk-through. Even better: consider a rotation of different people from the committee.

Conduct walk-throughs both during and after office hours.

There are no violations occurring after 5PM or on weekends, right? Of course there are! Walking through after hours will give you a complete picture of possible security violations.

Frequency of walk-throughs depends on the overall risk associated with the area.

In secure areas where only staff are allowed, consider 1-2 times a year. Common and high traffic areas are higher risk can be conducted quarterly.