



## 2016 HIPAA Audits are Heating Up: Don't Get Burned

07.18.2016

Earlier this year, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) in the Department of Health and Human Services **announced** that its Phase Two audits would begin in 2016. Now, covered entities are feeling the heat, as all covered entities selected for a desk audit have been notified. Those selected for the desk audits should have received their letters Monday, July 11. These desk audits cover specific requirements from the Privacy, Security and Breach Notification Rules, including a covered entity's Notice of Privacy Practices, breach notification, and risk analysis. Given just ten days to respond, all documentation is due to OCR by July 22, 2016.

OCR also confirmed that audits of business associates would begin in the fall. According to OCR, all desk audits should be completed by December 2016, with a third round of onsite audits to follow.

In our **June 8, 2016 post**, we outlined several key ways to prepare for an audit. OCR has been very active recently, administering these audits and reaching settlements with covered entities and business associates alike for serious HIPAA violations. With respect to HIPAA compliance, now is the time to ensure you can take the heat without getting burned.

**Please click here for previous posts on our Health Care Data Aware Blog.**

**EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
**?HIPAA Compliance: The Current Audit and Enforcement Environment?**

Join us on Thursday, Aug. 4 for a seminar/webinar on ?HIPAA Compliance: The Current Audit and Enforcement Environment.?

This free program will feature Iliana L. Peters, J.D., LL.M., Senior Advisor for HIPAA Compliance and Enforcement at the HHS Office for Civil Rights, and members of Williams Mullen?s Health Care Practice.

Topics:

- What do health care providers and their business associates need to know about HIPAA compliance?
- What are OCR HIPAA audits, and what should you do to prepare?
- What makes up OCR?s enforcement muscle, and how have they been flexing it?

Attendees can participate in two ways:

**1. Williams Mullen?s Richmond Office**

Williams Mullen Center  
200 South 10th Street, 16th Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

(Williams Mullen attorneys will be presenting at this location. Iliana L. Peters will be participating via webinar.)

**2. Webinar**

**For more information and to register, please [click here](#).**

## Related People