

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires that personally identifiable patient information be safeguarded from viewing by unauthorized persons.

It applies to:

- Health plans (group health plans with over 50 participants).
- Health care clearing houses (billing services, etc.).
- Health care providers (HCPs). Also includes pharmacies, insurance companies.
- Does not exclude government agencies.

Paragraph 142.308(b)(5) in the (proposed) HIPAA Security and Electronic Signature Standards requires, at a minimum:

“(5) A secure work station location (physical safeguards to eliminate or minimize the possibility of unauthorized access to information; for example, locating a terminal used to access sensitive information in a locked room and restricting access to that room to authorized personnel, not placing a terminal used to access patient information in any area of a doctor’s office where the screen contents can be viewed from the reception area).”

The compliance date for large covered entities (such as hospitals) is April 14, 2003.

The term for reading other people’s screens is Shoulder Surfing.

Current methods for addressing Shoulder Surfing are either too costly or risk exposing confidential patient information. They include:

- Separate computer rooms - require more space, which is difficult to find in most health care settings. Requires users to go to a separate room.
- Automatic screen savers – the time lag allows records to be read before they activate.
- Privacy screens - do not prevent viewing from directly behind the user.

Nova benefits:

- Nova’s patented solution places the monitor below the worksurface under a tinted glass viewport. The screen is visible only to the operator or someone breathing down their neck. When someone approaches, or when leaving the workstation, the user can slide a piece of paper over the viewport to block the screen before the screen saver activates.
- Worksurface space for hard records during transition.
- ISO 9241 recommended monitor location.
- Reduced eye and neck strain.
- Supports both flat panel (with adapter) and CRT technology.



More information on HIPAA is available at www.hipaa-nova.com

Contact Nova Solutions, Inc. at 800-730-6682 or hipaa@novasolutionsinc.com
