

HIPAA Administrative Simplification Statute and Rules

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health care system, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), Public Law 104-191, included **Administrative Simplification** provisions that required HHS to adopt national standards for electronic health care transactions and code sets, unique health identifiers, and security. At the same time, Congress recognized that advances in electronic technology could erode the privacy of health information. Consequently, Congress incorporated into HIPAA provisions that mandated the adoption of Federal privacy protections for individually identifiable health information.

HHS published a final Privacy Rule in December 2000, which was later modified in August 2002. This Rule set national standards for the protection of individually identifiable health information by three types of covered entities: health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers who conduct the standard health care transactions electronically. Compliance with the Privacy Rule was required as of April 14, 2003 (April 14, 2004, for small health plans).

HHS published a final Security Rule in February 2003. This Rule sets national standards for protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic protected health information. Compliance with the Security Rule was required as of April 20, 2005 (April 20, 2006 for small health plans).

OCR administers and enforces the Privacy Rule and the Security Rule.

Other HIPAA Administrative Simplification Rules are administered and enforced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and include:

- Transactions and Code Sets Standards
- Employer Identifier Standard
- National Provider Identifier Standard

The Enforcement Rule provides standards for the enforcement of all the Administrative Simplification Rules.

All of the HIPAA Administrative Simplification Rules are located at 45 CFR Parts 160, 162, and 164.

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/>