



HIPAA Readiness Assessment Summary – SpringCharts EMR

Spring Medical Systems, Inc. has contracted WorkSmart MD, Inc., an independent HIPAA consulting firm, to identify the HIPAA requirements that the SpringCharts EMR software may assist healthcare organizations in implementing. SpringCharts EMR is a comprehensive medical records system that combines functionality, ease of use and affordability into a single package.

A comprehensive assessment was performed to evaluate SpringCharts' capabilities in assisting medical practices in their efforts to comply with HIPAA Privacy and Security Standards. **Our Conclusion: SpringCharts EMR facilitates compliance with relevant HIPAA requirements and is a powerful tool for medical practices in their efforts to meet HIPAA privacy and security standards.**

HIPAA Background

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, presents health care organizations with an organization-wide compliance challenge and with unique opportunities to streamline operations and improve information security. While initial effort and cost to achieve compliance is required, a positive return on this investment will be realized through operational efficiencies, greater utilization of electronic transactions, and reduced exposure to risk regarding the protection of patient privacy.

Health care organizations affected by the federally mandated HIPAA regulations ("covered entities") are required to implement administrative safeguards, physical safeguards and technical safeguards to comply with the HIPAA security standards. It is anticipated that the security standards will be the most complicated and time-consuming for health care providers to interpret and implement. Although the HIPAA security standards do not mandate the use of any specific technology, software programs that integrate security features may ease the burden of compliance within a healthcare organization.

HIPAA Compliance Matrix	
HIPAA Privacy Standards	
√	§ 164.502(b) – Uses and Disclosures: Minimum Necessary
√	§ 164.524 – Access to Protected Health Information
√	§ 164.526 – Amendment of Protected Health Information
√	§ 164.528 – Accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information
√	§ 164.530(c) - Administrative Requirements: Safeguards
HIPAA Security Standards	
§ 164.308(a)(1) Security Management Process	
√	Risk Management
§ 164.308(a)(4) Information Access Management	
√	Access Authorization
§ 164.308(a)(5) Security Awareness and Training	
√	Log-in Monitoring
√	Password Management
§ 164.308(a)(6) Security Incident Procedures	
√	Response and Reporting
§ 164.308(a)(8) Evaluation	
√	Evaluation
§ 164.310(d)(1) Media Controls	
√	Data Backup and Storage
§ 164.312(a)(1) Access Control	
√	Unique User Identification
√	§ 164.312(b) Audit Controls

HIPAA Privacy Standards

Safeguards

Covered entities are required to have administrative, technical, and physical safeguards in place to protect health information from intentional or unintentional disclosures. The SpringCharts EMR software is very effective in preventing unintentional disclosures and modifications to protected health information by tracking user access.

Access to Protected Health Information

The HIPAA privacy standards allow individuals to inspect and copy their medical record. The SpringCharts EMR software enables covered entities

to quickly and effectively print an individual's medical record.

Amendment of Protected Health Information

An individual has the right to have a covered entity amend protected health information or a record about the individual in a designated record set for as long as the protected health information is maintained. The SpringCharts EMR software makes it easy for covered entities to make changes to an individual's medical record.

Accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information

Covered entities are required to provide individuals with an accounting of health information disclosures of his/her medical record for a period six years prior to the date on which the accounting is requested. By allowing users to insert notes, track modifications to protected health information, and include data and time stamps, the SpringCharts EMR software enables covered entities to provide individuals with an accounting of health information disclosures.

Minimum Necessary

The minimum necessary rule applies when covered entities are using or disclosing protected health information or when requesting information to or from another covered entity. By allowing administrators to specify appropriate access levels, the SpringCharts EMR software helps covered entities address this rule.

HIPAA Security Standards

Risk Management

Covered entities are required to implement security measures to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities to electronic protected health information. The SpringCharts EMR software includes integrated features that dramatically reduce the risk of unauthorized access to electronic protected health information.

Access Authorization

Covered entities should implement policies and procedures for granting access to electronic protected health information. By allowing administrative users to specify access levels to individually identifiable health information, the SpringCharts EMR software enables compliance with access authorization to electronic protected health information.

Log-in Monitoring

The monitoring functionality of the SpringCharts EMR software enables

covered entities to address the HIPAA security requirement to monitor log-in attempts.

Password Management

Covered entities must implement procedures for creating, changing, and safeguarding passwords. The SpringCharts EMR software has integrated functionality that enables administrators to manage and safeguard user access passwords.

Security Incident Procedures

Covered entities must identify and respond to suspected or known security incidents. By tracking access and modifications to electronic protected health information the SpringCharts EMR software assists covered entities in identifying and mitigating security incidents.

Evaluation

Covered entities must perform a periodic technical and non-technical evaluation that establishes the extent to which an organization's security policies and procedures meet the requirements of the HIPAA security standards. The SpringCharts EMR software is very effective in facilitating a covered entity's compliance with the HIPAA security standards for information access management.

Data Backup and Storage

Covered entities should create a retrievable, exact copy of electronic protected health information. The SpringCharts EMR software includes functionality that enables regular backups of electronic protected health information stored within the application's database.

Unique User Identification

Covered entities must assign a unique name and/or number for identifying and tracking user identity. The SpringCharts EMR software enables administrators to assign unique identification codes for each user.

Audit Controls

Covered entities are required to examine activity of information systems that contain electronic protected health information. The SpringCharts EMR software is capable of generating reports that record and report access and modifications made to electronic protected health information within the application. These reports assist health care organizations in fulfilling the technical auditing requirements of the HIPAA security standards.