

Report on Patient Privacy Volume 21, Number 12. December 09, 2021 Developers Plan New Features for Popular ONC Risk Assessment Tool

By Jane Anderson

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is reaching out to users of its popular security risk assessment (SRA) tool via a survey to identify and prioritize potential updates, developers told attendees at a webinar describing the planned changes. [1]

New features in the works—partially, a result of survey feedback—include a spreadsheet version, integrated Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices (HICP) guidance and short instructional videos, said Ryan Callahan, information technology business analyst at nonprofit research and consulting firm Altarum. Altarum developed the tool in partnership with the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and ONC.

The SRA tool is designed to be an easy-to-use tool that can help small practices and other small health care organizations evaluate their security posture against increasingly sophisticated security threats and help them determine where they may not be in compliance with the HIPAA security rule.

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