

Complete Healthcare Compliance Manual Resource: Sample Investigation Checklist

By Melissa Andrews^[1]

1. Notify Appropriate Individuals
Privacy Officer
Director
VP
CEO
Compliance Committee
Board of Directors
Other:

2. Timeline
Acknowledge Receipt of Complaint
Identify Involved Parties

Interview Complainant
Inform Accused Supervisor
Prepare Interview
Notify Human Resources
Inform Accused
Patient Notification
OCR Breach Notification

3. Investigation Documentation	
	Interviews
	Screen Shots
	Photographs
	Audits
	Baseline/Behavior Analytics
	Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Documentation

Business Associate Agreement
Department Processes/Procedures
Employee HIPAA Training
Breach Analysis/Risk Assessment

4. Patient Notification Documentation	
	Breach Letter
	No Breach Letter
	Media/Web Notice
	No Contact Letter

5. Mitigation Documentation
Discipline
Training/Retraining
Process/Procedure Changes
Technical Changes

6. Standard [Facility] Privacy Policies	
	Minimum Necessary Standard
	Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information with Authorization
	Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information Without Authorization
	Use and Disclosure of Protected Health Information for Facility Directory
	Use and Disclosure of PHI to Individuals involved in the Patient's Care and for Notification
	Sanctions for Failure to Comply with Privacy Standards
	Breach Notification

7. Other Request Documentation
Incident Discovery
Similar Cases
Previous Discipline for Similar Cases
Previous Training for Similar Cases

Previous Training for Department
Privacy Incident Investigation Process
Communications
Complete File

8. TIPS

Make sure everyone knows what to do if they receive an Office for Civil Rights (OCR) letter.

Do Not Mix Cases.

Consider whether Attorney-Client Privilege is necessary.

Define Scope of Investigation early and follow it.

Do not label an incident a Breach until after Breach Analysis/Risk Assessment is completed.

Collect documentation early at time of investigation.

Treat every investigation as an OCR investigation.

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