

## Compliance Today – August 2022 Release of information should be included in compliance monitoring

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By Betsy Wade

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Compliance monitoring of release of protected health information and any fees that are being charged could help prevent healthcare providers from being fined and receiving a resolution agreement from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office for Civil Rights.



The Office for Civil Rights announced its HIPAA Right of Access Initiative in 2019.<sup>[1]</sup> As of May 2022, the federal agency had resolved 27 cases with fines up to \$200,000.<sup>[2]</sup> Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule, individuals have the right to access their protected health information residing in a designated record set at a reasonable cost within 30 days of the healthcare provider's receipt of a valid request, or within 60 days if an extension is applicable.<sup>[3]</sup> Failure to provide patients access to their protected health information can violate HIPAA.

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