

HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action



Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication August 6, 2020

OCR has been made aware of postcards being sent to health care organizations disguised as official OCR communications, claiming to be notices of a mandatory HIPAA compliance risk assessment. The postcards have a Washington, D.C. return address, and the sender uses the title "Secretary of Compliance, HIPAA Compliance Division." The postcard is addressed to the health care organization's HIPAA compliance officer and prompts recipients to visit a URL, call, or email to take immediate action on a HIPAA Risk Assessment. The link directs individuals to a non-governmental website marketing consulting services.

The postcard below is not from HHS/OCR.

Secretary of Compliance
HIPAA Compliance Division
1032 15th ST
Washington, DC 20005
ATTN: HIPAA COMPLIANCE OFFICER



Required Security
Risk Assessment:
Per 164.308(a)(1) –
MANDATORY
COMPLIANCE HIPAA
ENTITY

NOTICE: HIPAA violations cost your practice. The federal fines for noncompliance are based on the level of perceived negligence found within your organization at the time of the HIPAA violation. These fines can range from \$100 to \$50,000 per violation (or per record), with a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million per year for each violation. **See Reverse for Instructions**

HIPAA covered entities and business associates should alert their workforce members to this misleading communication. This communication is from a private entity – it is **NOT** an HHS/OCR communication. Covered entities and business associates can verify that a communication is from OCR by looking for the OCR address or email address on any communication that purports to be from OCR. The addresses for OCR's HQ and Regional Offices are available on the OCR website at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html>, and all OCR email addresses will end in @hhs.gov. If organizations have additional questions or concerns, please send an email to: OCRMail@hhs.gov.

Suspected incidents of individuals posing as federal law enforcement should be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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