

# White Paper

## iMedicor: Secure Information Exchange Portal

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### "The Fix" for Healthcare Communications

- HIPAA Compliant Information Exchange Using the Internet
- Social / Professional Network for Referrals and Collaboration
- Continuing Medical Education Programs



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## Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	4
Business Challenge .....	7
Solution Description .....	8
Solution Benefits .....	9
Summary.....	10

## Executive Summary

Patricia A. Trites, MPA, CHBC, CPC, CHCC, CHCO, CEMC, CHP, CMP(H), CHAP, Vice President and founder of Compliance Resources, LLC has reviewed the iMedicor website for compliance with the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules. Her findings and conclusions represent a secure, access controlled and auditable system worthy of the claim of “HIPAA Compliant.”

iMedicor has created a HIPAA Privacy and Security Rule compliant information exchange portal. Protected Health Information (PHI) can be transmitted between providers, patients and business associates with the assurance that the laws have been addressed and the protected information is safe during transmission.

iMedicor’s attention to access controls and auditability of transactions provides peace of mind to healthcare organizations. These access control functions allow the organization’s administrator to determine which employees may transmit and view the protected health information and allows for fast and simple termination of employee access when necessary. The audit functions permit the administrator the ability to view a real-time report of each user’s access and activity within the system.

Challenge	Solution
Providing secure access of Protected Health Information to providers, patients and business associates.	Create a HIPAA Privacy and Security Rule compliant information portal.
Providing secure transport of Protected Health Information to both providers, patients and business associates.	Create a file transfer portal that is user-friendly and secure.
Providing access controls both internally and externally.	Create administratively controlled access to messages that may contain Protected Health Information.
Providing both accurate and usable audit trail information.	Create a transparent audit trail for users and administrators to access and monitor activity within the site.

Table 1.

The additional features of the iMedicor site create a rich environment for healthcare organizations to network, obtain continuing medical education, obtain transcription services, electronically prescribe medication refills and obtain important prescription drug information from pharmaceutical companies and representatives.

Overall, iMedicor has created a superior, secure and compliant information exchange portal with additional services and benefits for healthcare providers. iMedicor's insightful attention to current legal issues pertaining to protected health information can save healthcare organizations time and financial resources while providing peace of mind.

## Reviewer Information

Patricia A. Trites has a Master of Public Administration in Healthcare and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University. She is currently working on her PhD in Business Management. She has worked as a college instructor in healthcare administration and accounting. An in-demand speaker and writer for national healthcare industry conventions and publications, she also provides compliance guidance in the areas of Billing and Reimbursement, HIPAA, OSHA, CLIA, documentation and compliance in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) and employment requirements and regulation.

Ms. Trites has more than 15 years of medical record and HIPAA compliance auditing experience. She has served as a consultant and expert witness to numerous attorneys, both public and private.

She is the author of many articles, software and books including:

- *The Healthcare Organization and Medical Office Compliance Program Guide*
- *The Compliance Guide for the Medical Practice* (Published by the AMA)
- *How to Evaluate Electronic Health Record Systems (EHR) Systems* (Published by AHIMA)
- *HIPAA Privacy Solutions Toolkit* software
- *HIPAA Security Solutions Toolkit* software.

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## Business Challenge

Complying with HIPAA and other privacy/security laws for healthcare organizations is a considerable challenge. The ability to exchange information in a secure, HIPAA compliant manner allows providers and their business associates to efficiently and effectively conduct business. Surmounting this challenge facilitates both patient and provider interactions.

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Table 2.

## Solution Description

The iMedicor website was accessed and reviewed in July 2010 to determine the existence and strength of HIPAA compliant processes. The following information was gathered to determine if the stated claim of “HIPAA-compliant personal health information exchange” was supported.

Functionality			HIPAA Rule Citation
<p>The secure information portal allows users to send and receive medical records, emails containing PHI, and other documents that are regulated by HIPAA and other Privacy Laws without the need to purchase encryption software.</p> <p>Continuity of Care Records may be uploaded and sent to other physicians, healthcare professionals and patients.</p>			<p><b>Encryption of E-Mails or other Internet transmitted files</b></p> <p>164.310(d)(1); 164.312(b); 164.312(c)(1); 164.312(d); 164.312(e)(1)</p>
<p>Email attachments containing Protected Health Information must conform to the following: No executables of any kind will be uploaded. Files with no extension or with an extension other than those listed below, can be zipped and uploaded as a .zip file. The only type(s) of files allowed to be uploaded (unzipped) are: ".dcm, .xml, .doc, .docx, .txt, .htm, .html, .gif, .jpg, .db, .mdb, .mov, .mp3, .mp4, .pps, .ppt, .pdf, .pct, .rtf, .swf, .tif, .wav, .wks, .wma, .wmv, .wpd, .wps, .xhtml, .xls, .zip".</p>			<p><b>Protection of Information Assets</b></p> <p>164.308(a)(5)</p>
<p>The Clinics section allows the practice/ organization to create associations between iMedicor members who work at the same location, or are associates within any given group. The administrator of the clinic has the ability to add and delete users so access to PHI and messaging is controlled.</p>			<p><b>Access Control</b></p> <p>164.308(a)(3); 164.308(a)(4); 164.308(a)(5); 164.312(d)</p>
Date & Time	Action	Description	Auditing Access Controls
8/2/2010 11:00:34 PM	Audit	Viewed audit trail	
8/2/2010 10:57:52 PM	Clinic	Started process to create a new clinic.	

Table 3.



## Solution Benefits

iMedicor provides an internet-based information exchange portal to facilitate patient care in a heavily regulated environment. The portal provides an efficient and secure solution to physicians, patients and business associates by utilizing a system that is HIPAA Privacy and Security Rule compliant.

The purpose of encryption is to prevent third parties from obtaining access to the original information. Encryption/decryption software can be expensive and must be utilized by both the sender and the receiver of information. To facilitate secure communication iMedicor's information exchange portal without the cost or the inconvenience of transmitting encryption/decryption keys or programs.

Another considerable task necessary to comply with privacy and security laws is the ability to control access to systems containing protected health information (PHI). iMedicor has achieved this by using its unique invitation-only access to individuals outside the user's organization. It also provides administrative-only control of inclusion and termination of individuals within an organization.

Additional benefits of the iMedicor site include electronic prescription refill, continuing medical education programs, transcription services, and social networking for healthcare professionals. These complementary services also possess the necessary security required for HIPAA and other regulatory organizations.

# Summary

iMedicor has created a HIPAA Privacy and Security Rule compliant information exchange portal. Protected Health Information (PHI) can be transmitted between providers, patients and business associates with the assurance that the laws have been addressed and the protected information is safe during transmission.

iMedicor's attention to access controls and auditability of transactions provides peace of mind to healthcare organizations. These access control functions allow the organization's administrator to determine which employees may transmit and view the protected health information and allows for fast and simple termination of employee access when necessary. The audit functions permit the administrator the ability to view a real-time report of each user's access and activity within the system.

The additional features of the iMedicor site create a rich environment for healthcare organizations to network, obtain continuing medical education, obtain transcriptions services, electronically prescribe medication refills and obtain important prescription drug information from pharmaceutical companies and representatives.

Overall, iMedicor has created a superior, secure and compliant information exchange portal with additional services and benefits for healthcare providers. iMedicor's insightful attention to current legal issues pertaining to protected health information can save healthcare organizations time and financial resources while providing peace of mind.

