

PEL HIPAA and RESEARCH PROJECT 2007-2008

(President's Emerging Leaders Program)

Project Overview

Data security and management in an era of de-centralized data-systems and cheap storage has long term implications if the data is not secured or created in a meaningful manner for preservation and/or sharing. Creating and designing trustworthy systems / training that protects the researcher, subject, or university from avoidable risk is an important project to undertake.

Project Timeline

August 07 - November 07

Project Charter
Meet with sponsors and advisors

November 07- February 08

Interview researchers and administrators
Peer Institution interviews for report

March 08 - May 08

Analysis of interviews
Design deliverables

April 08 - June 08

Web Board design meetings
Analysis wrap-up

May 08 - July 08

Final report writing and submission

Goals and Deliverables

- Peer institution data security practice review
- Appendix to the IRB approval form to assess data security measures of research proposal
- Web-board / knowledge base to for research to post and search answers based on data security practices
- Report on themes from interviews
- Education and communication plan for data security web-board (post-cards, top-ten things to know about HIPAA, training, emails notification...)



AskIT WEB BOARD
currently under construction... coming soon!

A place to ask security related questions to a review board and to search past questions and answers.

A resource for researchers to find information related to data security as it relates to ePHI and HIPAA.

Project Team:

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Academic Health Center

Claire Kari, Environmental Health Specialist
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Project Advisor:

Ross Jansen, Director
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And Office of Occupational Health & Safety

Project Sponsors:

Terry Bock,
Associate Vice President & Chief of Staff
Academic Health Center

Steve Cawley,
Vice President & University Chief Information Officer
Office of Information Technology

TOP TEN THEMES FROM INTERVIEWS

- (1) There needs to be information on HOW to comply, and not just what to comply on.
- (2) The behavior of individuals and/or human error poses significant risks.
- (3) Some 'centralization' of IT/security would be good, but it's important for a PI to be able to opt out.
- (4) It is not the role of the IRB to assess security issues.
- (5) PI's often do not have expertise in technology or security.
- (6) There should be more assistance in advising on, or reviewing, security plans.
- (7) There should be specific risk assessments made as to the level of security actually needed.
- (8) The future of research involves an increasing level of sharing and collaboration.
- (9) Most grants do not pay for computer equipment, upgrades, or IT personnel.
- (10) Demonstrate policy changes to the researcher in terms of how it will make their work easier