A NEW STANDARD OF DATA PROTECTION

Cybercriminals attacked the healthcare industry at a higher rate than any other sector in 2015, and more than 100 million healthcare records were compromised last year[1].

The stakes are high for protecting this sensitive information.

Boards of healthcare providers often have access to sensitive protected health information—and so do the vendors and third parties they entrust for their technology services.

More than 40% of BoardEffect's client base is comprised of healthcare organizations. These range from small local hospitals with simple board structures to national hospital networks with several boards. With this in mind, BoardEffect is now HIPAA compliant.

This enhances our already extraordinarily secure and stable delivery environment, with benefits for organizations within and outside of healthcare.

Rigorous Requirements for Safeguarding Data

Compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and HITECH goes well beyond mere technical controls. It invokes a series of safeguards and policies across:

- data management and encryption
- physical work environments
- procedures for disclosure
- risk analysis

The common thread: keeping electronic protected health information (ePHI) secure.

ePHI Matters Beyond Healthcare

In BoardEffect's work with 2,500-plus boards, we've observed a growing trend where ePHI appears more frequently in board portals. This can occur in all manner of organizations when undertaking such common tasks as reviewing medical claims or discussing employee benefits. These and many other scenarios could involve examples of ePHI—even if just discussed anecdotally.

Organizations of all types need to raise their digital defenses. The Securities Exchange Commission has stated that boards of organizations responsible for safeguarding information will be held accountable for lax security policies and procedures, with stiff penalties for willful non-compliance.

This legislation covers an organization's vendors as well. Under HIPAA, any entity transmitting ePHI is responsible for ensuring that any business associates who touch this data are also HIPAA-compliant.

BoardEffect Delivers Peace of Mind

Gain confidence through BoardEffect. With HIPAA compliance, BoardEffect addresses the regulations and security needs faced by boards that handle ePHI.

BoardEffect cements its commitment to HIPAA compliance with signed Business Associates Agreements—which very few board portals with do.

Every organization within the BoardEffect client base benefits from the policies and procedures we have put into place, from strict rules for handling data to rigorous safeguards for physical access to buildings and offices.

For more information about BoardEffect's HIPAA compliance program, please contact hipaa@boardeffect.com.

[1] *https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2016/04/26/why-cybercriminals-attack-healthcare-more-than-any-other-industry/ April 26, 2016*