

## HIPAA Compliance Statement

Adherence to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will impact every health care provider in the United States when the new regulations come into effect. The table below summarizes two sets of final regulations and one set of proposed regulations, which will likely be made final in the near future.

Regulation	Description	Effective Date
Standards for Electronic Transactions	Because there was no common standard for the transfer of information between healthcare providers and payers (over 400 electronic data information, "EDI", formats were in use by various payers in 2000), this regulation requires payers to accept EDI transaction standards	October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2002 unless a request for a one year extension had been filed by this date.
Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information Standards	These standards generally prohibit a covered entity from disclosing protected health information without a patient's consent.	April 14, 2003
Proposed Security and Electronic Signature Standards	These proposed standards have been designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of individually identifiable health information.	Currently unreleased. Due out December, 2002

### Wescom's HIPAA Compliancy

As a leading healthcare software and web services provider, Wescom will modify its products and services deemed necessary for HIPAA compliancy. We will also:

- assist our clients with their conformance efforts
- closely monitor final rules and changes to any of the standards
- adapt to any new HIPAA-related regulations issued in the future

It should be emphasized that HIPAA compliance is primarily an administrative endeavor, not merely a technical task. As such, the healthcare provider is primarily responsible to ensure HIPAA compliancy through its own internal policies and procedures.

### Business Associate Contracts

Periodically, Wescom may require access to protected health information during the course of providing support services. This type of access is covered in HIPAA's final privacy regulations which define other parties that have access to a health care entity's protected information - whether directly or indirectly - as "business associates". Under the regulation, a written contract is required between a covered entity and its business associates in order for those business associates to receive information from or on behalf of the covered entity. The PointClickCare.com Subscription Service agreement includes a Privacy clause that binds Wescom to the same use and disclosure limitations as those that our customers require.

### Additional HIPAA Information

Please forward any questions about Wescom's HIPAA-related activities to [hipaa\\_info@wescomsolutions.com](mailto:hipaa_info@wescomsolutions.com). Below are links to web sites providing additional HIPAA related information.

Site	Link
CMS (HCFA) HIPAA Home Page	<a href="http://www.hcfa.gov/hipaa.htm">www.hcfa.gov/hipaa.htm</a>
CMS HIPAA Site for Health Care Professionals	<a href="http://www.hcfa.gov/medlearn/hipaa.htm">www.hcfa.gov/medlearn/hipaa.htm</a>
Department of Health and Human Services	<a href="http://aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp">aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp</a>
HIPAA Advisory from Phoenix Health Systems	<a href="http://www.hipaadvisory.com">www.hipaadvisory.com</a>