

What about HITECH and the HIPAA Business Associate?

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Qualis Health

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Who is Qualis Health?

- Healthcare quality, safety and system transformation consultants?
- Healthcare coordinators through case and disease management?
- Healthcare utilization managers ?
- Health Information Technology consultants?

Who is Qualis Health?

We are all of these...

- Qualis Health has more than 30 years of experience serving diverse US populations with complex needs.
- We provide leadership, expertise and innovation through these core services:
 - Utilization management
 - Care coordination
 - Clinical quality improvement
 - Health information technology and operations improvement consulting

Qualis Health's Primary Clients

- Medicaid Agencies
- Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Washington State Dept of Labor & Industries
- Other Government Agencies
- Foundations
- "Safety Net" Providers
- Self-Funded Health Plans

- Qualis Health serves as Medicare's designated quality improvement organization (QIO) in Idaho and Washington State.
- In addition, Qualis Health provides care management, quality assessment and improvement and health information technology consulting services to nearly 3,000,000 Medicaid clients in five states.

- Qualis Health's comprised of highly-qualified professionals with multi-disciplinary clinical, quality improvement, operational and care management expertise.
- We offer a national network of more than 300 physician/practitioner consultants with clinical expertise representing all medical specialties.
- Our nation-wide presence includes regional offices in:
 - Alaska
 - California
 - Idaho
 - Nebraska
 - South Carolina
 - Washington

We are also:

A Business Associate Under HIPAA

Other Privacy/Security Requirements

- Customer specific requirements
- URAC (Utilization Review Accreditation Standards)
- FISMA (Federal Information Security Management Act)

As a HIPAA Business Associate:

- Qualis Health has 45 Business Associate contracts with covered entity customers
- We have 150 Physician consulting contracts
- We also have 20 “Downstream” contracts with suppliers and contractors

Privacy & Security Management

- Confidentiality, Privacy and Security Policies & Procedures
- Corporate Compliance Officer (CCO)
- Corporate risk/contract management
- Roles: Contract managers, CIO, CCO, risk/contract mgmt, operating executives, ITS & operations staff
- Internal on-line issues/compliance reporting systems
- Legal counsel

HITECH's Impact

- Determine change in contractual relationships with our customers and suppliers:
 - Contract terms, language...
 - Breach notification processes
 - General to specific
- Negotiate new contracts, “up-stream” and “down-stream”
- Update all confidentiality, privacy and security Policies and Procedures
- Revise security breach notification policies and procedures and internal systems
- Re-address “Administrative Safeguards”

HITECH's Impact

- Expectations have changed
- Significant cross-departmental initiative
- Potential high impact on processes and technology

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