

USDV's HIPAA Overview

Your patient's PHI will always remain safe, secure, and private with our USDV HIPAA compliant Online Backup Manager.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule

HIPAA's Privacy Rule, among other things, sets minimum standards for the protection of confidential patient information, called PHI or "Protected Health Information". PHI must be protected against all "reasonably anticipated" threats, physical and electronic. For the average health care provider or health plan, the Privacy Rule requires that certain requirements are met, such as:

- Providing information to patients about their privacy rights and how their information can be used
- Adopting clear privacy procedures for its practice, hospital, or plan
- Training employees so that they understand the privacy procedures
- Designating an individual to be responsible for seeing that the privacy procedures are adopted and followed
- Securing patient records containing individually identifiable health information so that they are not readily available to those who do not need them

USDV is a premier online data backup provider for healthcare entities utilizing best practice data-serving technology and security software. This means that the health data you backup online and store with USDV's OBM is protected to standards that meet or exceed HIPAA's requirements.

Currently, the algorithm that we are using to encrypt your files is 128-bit Twofish. It is a block cipher designed by Counterpane Labs, which was also one of the five Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) finalists chosen by the National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST). It has been subjected to frequent public reviews, but no known attack against this algorithm has been reported. It would require 8.77×10^{17} years to crack our 128-bit encryption!

The HIPAA Security Rule

HIPAA's Security Rule establishes a new term: "ePHI", or "Electronic Protected Health Information". ePHI is any PHI that is in electronic or digital form. With the increasing use of computers and networks, PHI is increasingly becoming ePHI.

From patient tracking, to testing and diagnosis, to treatment and care, the medical community is creating mountains of electronic health information that has to be protected. And USDV's Online Backup Manager software is the best data backup and protection solution available.

The Security Rule (section 164) specifically requires, among other things, that the following safeguards be used to protect ePHI:

- 1. Data Backup Plan - 164.308(a)(7)

Leading IT experts agree that backing up critical data frequently and offsite is one of the best ways to protect your business, and reduce your risk from data losses. Your data backup plan should include USDV's OBM, the most secure, cost-effective choice for data backup. We offer companies of all sizes a highly-secure and centralized backup strategy even if their network has been decentralized all without having to invest thousands of dollars for upkeep.

- 2. Disaster Recovery Plan

In an uncertain world, a disaster recovery plan is worth its weight in gold, especially where critical patient data is involved. After a disaster, secure and immediate access to your data is crucial element of the disaster recovery process. If your own servers and networks are down or damaged, rely on USDV's OBM to keep your data safe and accessible whenever and wherever you need it.

- 3. Emergency Mode Operations Plan

Some disasters and emergencies last longer than others. If you have to execute your Emergency Mode Ops Plan, it means you're dealing with an extended outage of your normal operations. In such a scenario, USDV's OBM is your most reliable and secure data resource. You can run your operations from almost anywhere as long as you have your data. And nobody provides safer, more secure storage and access to your data than our OBM.

- 4. Emergency Access Procedures

Emergency access may be needed for any number of reasons: a fire or flood in your building; a sudden legal challenge; or the death of a key IT employee. Just as with Emergency Mode Operations and Disaster Recovery, USDV facilitates secure, 24/7 access to your data whenever and wherever you need it.

- 5. Data Backup and Storage

Threats to your data can come from many directions: human error; theft or sabotage; device failures; etc. That's why an essential requirement of HIPAA's Security Rule is data backup and storage. Experts universally agree that offsite storage, done right, is more secure than onsite storage, and reduces your risk of important data loss. With USDV's OBM, you can restore your data in mere seconds, all the way back to when you first started with OBM.

- 6. Contingency Operations

As with Emergency Mode Operations, Contingency Operations require you to keep working under difficult circumstances. When your operating environment is uncertain or in flux, USDV's OBM is your rock-solid data resource, protecting your digital assets from hackers, natural disasters or a simple computer crash every day of the year.

- 7. Encryption and Decryption

Because it protects data from prying eyes, encryption and decryption were made an essential HIPAA requirement. USDV's OBM process compresses and encrypts prior to transmitting over a secure internet channel (SSL), so rest assured your data is safe. Our 128-bit SSL encryption is 100% guaranteed.

USDV is a premier online data backup provider for HIPAA Covered Entities, utilizing best practice data-serving technology and security software. With no installation fees or additional equipment to purchase, you can start protecting your data right now. Online data backup is becoming the industry standard and through USDV you receive access to secure online data storage!