

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule establishes a national set of **minimum security standards** for protecting all electronic private health information (ePHI) that a Covered Entity (CE) and Business Associate (BA) create, receive, maintain, or transmit. The Security Rule contains the administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that CEs and BAs must put in place to secure ePHI.

With that in mind, what types of information system components need to be heavily scrutinized to help protect the confidentiality and integrity of ePHI? What types of controls would you recommend implementing to safeguard ePHI? Cite resources and references that back up your assertions.

To help protect the confidentiality and integrity of ePHI, The HIPAA Security Rule requires administrative, physical, and technical safeguards for ePHI protection when a Covered Entity (CE) and Business Associate (BA) create, receive, maintain, or transmit the ePHI.

Administrative safeguards are the main elements of the HIPAA checklist. Administrative rules refer to administrative actions, policies, and procedures to manage the implementation, selection, and maintenance of security measures to protect ePHI and to manage the workforce conduct concerning the protection of that information. Physical safeguards are physical measures to protect a covered entity's electronic information systems as well as related buildings and equipment from natural and environmental hazards, and unauthorized intrusion. Physical safeguards focus on workstation use and security, facility access controls, and device or media controls. Technical safeguards refer to using the technologies to protect ePHI and controlling access ePHI. The main requirements are data encryption to make sure data unreadable, undecipherable, and unusable in case of any breach.

To enhance the protection of ePHI, Covered Entities and Business Associates should increase network secure by installing firewall, use AES to encrypt data during transmitting, and encrypt all data when data in rest.

Reference

HIPAA / Healthcare Industry

LIST OF RECOMMENDED HIPAA CONTROLS. February 18, 2022. RSI Security.

<https://blog.rsisecurity.com/list-of-recommended-hipaa-controls/>

HIPAA Security Rule: Implementing Safeguards to Protect EPHI. Planet 9.

<https://planet9security.com/hipaa-security-rule-implementing-safeguards-to-protect-ephi/>