

Helcim stresses the need for proper BAA to ensure HIPAA compliance to enhance Security and Privacy for Healthcare Providers.

Calgary, AB – 27th of May 2024 – In an era of increasing data breaches, Helcim, a leading North American payment processing company, is committed to educating small and medium healthcare businesses on HIPAA compliance to ensure the highest standards of security and privacy.

Helcim proudly offers a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) program, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to safeguarding clients' healthcare information. In a recent discussion, Nic Beique, Chief Executive Officer, and Stephanie Davis, Head of Compliance, shared insights into the importance of HIPAA and healthcare for Helcim.

According to Stephanie Davis, "This program underscores our dedication to upholding the highest standards of data protection, offering peace of mind to healthcare providers and their patients." The HIPAA program features enhanced data security measures, ensuring that sensitive health information is protected against unauthorized access and breaches. By prioritizing seamless and secure payment processing, Helcim reinforces its commitment to helping healthcare merchants comply with their HIPAA obligations related to privacy and security.

Key Benefits of HIPAA Program

- **Enhanced Data Security:** Robust security measures to protect sensitive health information from unauthorized access and breaches.
- **Compliance Support:** Assistance for healthcare merchants in meeting their HIPAA obligations, ensuring privacy and security compliance.
- **Trusted Partnership:** Establishing Helcim as a trusted partner in the healthcare industry, allowing providers to focus on delivering quality care without compromising data security.

Why Healthcare Providers Need HIPAA-Compliant Vendors

Healthcare providers must ensure patient safety, information security, and privacy. When selecting a vendor, it's essential to consider the following:

- **Legal and Regulatory Compliance:** Ensuring adherence to laws and regulations, protecting patient privacy and avoiding legal penalties.
- **Reputation and Trust:** Building trust with patients, regulatory bodies, and the public through compliance.

- Accreditation and Funding: Simplifying the application processes for accreditation and funding through industry standards compliance.
- Data Protection: Implementing rigorous measures to safeguard sensitive health information in the digital age.

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Understanding HIPAA and Its Importance

HIPAA, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1996, focuses on two main aspects:

- Health Insurance Portability: Ensures individuals can maintain health insurance coverage during job changes or loss.
- Accountability: Establishes national standards for protecting individually identifiable health information, crucial for safeguarding patient privacy and securing electronic health records (EHRs).

Key Elements of a Business Associate Agreement (BAA):

A BAA is a legally binding contract between healthcare providers and their vendors, ensuring the protection of Protected Health Information (PHI). Key elements include:

- Permitted Uses of PHI: Specifies how PHI can be used and disclosed.
- Safeguards and Compliance: Requires appropriate measures to prevent unauthorized PHI use or disclosure.
- Reporting: Includes provisions for reporting PHI breaches.
- Subcontractors: Ensures subcontractors comply with PHI protection standards.
- Termination: Allows contract termination if the business associate violates the agreement.

Benefits of a BAA

- Ensures Compliance: Ensures vendors handling PHI comply with HIPAA rules.
- Clarifies Responsibilities: Outlines responsibilities for handling PHI, minimizing ambiguities.
- Legal Protection: Holds business associates accountable for PHI breaches.
- Promotes Trust: Formalizes relationships and builds trust among providers, business associates, and patients.
- Adaptability: Tailors to specific relationships while ensuring HIPAA compliance.

Helcim's HIPAA program is essential for ensuring compliance and protecting patient privacy and data security. By partnering with Helcim, healthcare providers can trust that their sensitive information is handled with the utmost care and confidentiality.

For more information about Helcim, HIPAA or BAA please visit <https://www.helcim.com/guides/HIPAA-and-Helcim/>

About Helcim

Helcim is the easy and affordable solution for small and medium businesses accepting credit card payments in-person or online, dedicated to making payments easy and secure for merchants. With a strong commitment to data protection and compliance, Helcim supports businesses in meeting their regulatory obligations and safeguarding sensitive information

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