



All Provider Types

Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication



Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication

This listserv notice is to inform all providers about the following US Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights alert regarding fraudulent postcard mailings disguised as official federal communication:

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From: OCR HIPAA Privacy Rule information distribution <OCR-PRIVACY-LIST@LIST.NIH.GOV> **On Behalf Of** OS OCR PrivacyList, OCR (HHS/OS)
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:35 PM
To: OCR-PRIVACY-LIST@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication

Contact Details:

1-800-343-9000
emednyalert@csra.com

HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action



Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication
August 6, 2020

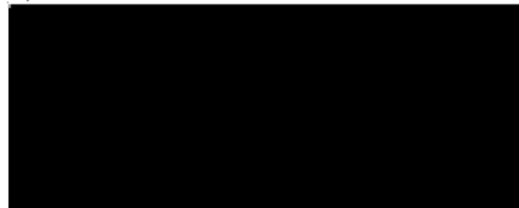
OCR has been made aware of postcards being sent to health care organizations disguised as official OCR communications, claiming to be notices of a mandatory HIPAA compliance risk assessment. The postcards have a Washington, D.C. return address, and the sender uses the title "Secretary of Compliance, HIPAA Compliance Division." The postcard is addressed to the health care organization's HIPAA compliance officer and prompts recipients to visit a URL, call, or email to take immediate action on a HIPAA Risk Assessment. The link directs individuals to a non-governmental website marketing consulting services.

The postcard below is not from HHS/OCR.

Secretary of Compliance
HIPAA Compliance Division
1032 15th ST
Washington, DC 20005
ATTN: HIPAA COMPLIANCE OFFICER

First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Industry, CA
Permit No. 4166

Required Security
Risk Assessment:
Per (164.308(a)(1) –
MANDATORY
COMPLIANCE HIPAA
ENTITY



NOTICE: HIPAA violations cost your practice. The federal fines for noncompliance are based on the level of perceived negligence found within your organization at the time of the HIPAA violation. These fines can range from \$100 to \$50,000 per violation (or per record), with a maximum penalty of \$1.5 million per year for each violation. See Reverse for Instructions

HIPAA covered entities and business associates should alert their workforce members to this misleading communication. This communication is from a private entity – it is NOT an HHS/OCR communication. Covered entities and business associates can verify that a communication is from OCR by looking for the OCR address or email address on any communication that purports to be from OCR. The addresses for OCR's HQ and Regional Offices are available on the OCR website at <https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html>, and all OCR email addresses will end in @hhs.gov. If organizations have additional questions or concerns, please send an email to: OCRAMail@hhs.gov.

Suspected incidents of individuals posing as federal law enforcement should be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If you are having problems viewing content within this newsletter, please email amednyalert@gdilt.com for further assistance

The Department has attempted to ensure that the information contained in these notifications is as accurate as possible. However, no e-mail transmittals or materials provided are intended to constitute legal or medical advice.