



HIPAA Case Study Cuero Community Hospital

Security Audit fulfills HIPAA requirements and provides planning for security improvements

The Customer

Cuero Community Hospital (CCH), www.cuerohosp.org, a licensed 60-bed hospital located in Texas with health clinics in Goliad, Yorktown, and Cuero, Texas.

The Challenge

The HIPAA Security Rule requires that Cuero Hospital conduct an accurate and thorough assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to electronic protected health information during storage and transmission. Cuero determined that it would take a minimum of three months to adequately audit their operations, potentially delaying current projects or requiring additional resources. Delaying the audit would only compound the problem by allowing less time to budget for and implement improvements prior to the Rule's deadline.

The Solution

Cuero Hospital engaged Spohn Consulting to implement its HIPAA Security Audit service. Spohn's security audit is mapped directly to the security rule into what Spohn identified as 70 unique, required and addressable provisions. Led by a network security engineer, Spohn audited Cuero's current administrative, physical, and technical security measures including policy, plans, procedures, systems, and networks. A compliance matrix with recommendations for remediation was then developed. Recommendations were based on Spohn's expertise in balancing the cost for improvement versus the increased protection it would provide, allowing for development of a cost effective compliance plan.

The audit process required only one day of on-site work of which less than six hours required Cuero staff assistance. The remainder of the testing, analysis, and documentation were completed remotely.

The Assessment:

- Remote and on-site collection of pertinent data and site information and remote testing of network security measures
- On-site analysis and testing of physical and technical security measures and analysis of LAN, WAN, and Wireless networks
- On-site interviews with key management and staff members
- Development of three volume report of audit process and findings and development of supporting digital content

The Results

Cuero achieved the following as a result of Spohn's HIPAA Security Audit:

- Met audit requirement as defined in Sec. 164.308(a)(1)(ii) of the Security Rule
- Acquired detailed documentation for use in budget and remediation planning
- Immediately lowered risk and eliminated three months of dedicated effort
- Effectively communicated compliance status and plans to board of directors



Quotes

"We now know how we comply with the HIPAA Security Rule and what we need to do."

— CFO, Greg Pritchett

"This took 3 months of work off my plate – not to mention the research required on the HIPAA Security Rule, the technology tools and InfoSec in general."

— IS Manager, Arthur Mueller

"If ever there is a question about meeting regulatory requirements, I'd like my clients to have a report like this on the shelf."

— TORCH Legal Counsel, Kevin Reed

For further information please contact our corporate office at 512.685.1000

