

HIPAA Compliance: Using Encryption for Safe and Secure Management of Patient Health information.

The rapid rise in use of computer networks to process, store and exchange the patient health information has made it easy for the health providers to speed up and improve the quality standards of their services. The seamless connectivity that internet provides, makes it easy for patients to access their medical information and process it as per their own convenience, without wasting their precious time.

But there are there are risks associated with this form of electronic exchange of protected health information. Once the information is out of the private domain like a laboratory, hospital, clinic, insurance provider, billing service, patient's network, it becomes vulnerable to theft and unauthorized intercept.

To protect the loss of crucial patient health data it is necessary to adopt the right encryption procedure before the sensitive data is sent out to the receiver, through the public network. The purpose of encryption is assure the sender that he or she is sending the information to the receiver in foolproof manner and the information safely reaches the receiver without greeting intercepted during its journey.

To achieve HIPAA compliance it is necessary to maintain complete secrecy of the information whether it stored, processed or exchanged between two or more, different health entities. Any lapse can invite strict regulatory fines and convictions. Hence it necessary to protect the information as it travels through the internet between the sender and the receiver, by adopting the right encryption procedure. This can be done by adopting the Secure Sever Layer technology that uses both, symmetric and asymmetric forms of encryption.

The patient health information is ciphered into a meaningless or senseless statement, which is of no use to any body who steals it. This is again converted back into original form by the receiver with the help of a secret key that has been provided by the sender. In this way the information routed is safe and secure and there is no possibility of identity theft, which is in line with HIPAA compliance.

About empower

emPower e-learning solutions, with offices in US, and India provides end-to-end e-learning services, with strong focus on quality assured online compliance training content for the healthcare professionals. We provide a Learning Management System (LMS) and an array of courses including those mandated by government and other regulatory bodies such as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), Joint Commission and Red Flag Rule.