HIPAA Integrity

Authority: Chancellor

History:

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1. Purpose

1.1. This policy reflects East Carolina University’s commitment to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its HIPAA Systems by implementing policies and procedures to prevent, detect, contain, and correct security violations. Compliance of this policy is in accordance with the Security Rule of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). All University units that have been designated as “Health Care Components” must comply with the requirements set forth in this policy as outlined by the final HIPAA Security Rule.

2. Definitions

2.1. HIPAA Security Rule - establishes national standards to protect individuals’ electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) that is created, received, transmitted, or maintained by a covered entity. The Security Rule requires appropriate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of ePHI.

2.2. electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI) – individually identifiable health information which is created, received, transmitted, or maintained in electronic form.

2.3. Health Care Component – a component of a covered entity designated by the entity that functions as a health care provider, as defined by HIPAA.

2.4. HIPAA System – defines any hardware, software, server, workstation, or mobile device that a Health Care Component uses in the course of its daily functions to create, receive, transmit, or maintain ePHI.

2.5. Integrity – the property that data or information have not been altered or destroyed in an unauthorized manner. It involves maintaining the consistency, accuracy, and trustworthiness
of data over its entire life cycle. Data must not be changed in transit, and steps must be taken to ensure that data cannot be altered by unauthorized people.

2.6. **Workforce** – employees, volunteers, trainees, learners, faculty, students, and other persons whose conduct in the performance of work for an ECU Health Care Component, is under the direct control of such ECU Health Care Component, whether or not they are paid by the ECU Health Care Component.

3. **Regulations**

3.1. **Integrity (164.312(c)(1))** – implement policies and procedures to protect ePHI from improper alteration or destruction. This standard is comprised of one (1) regulatory specification: Mechanism to Authenticate Electronic Protected Health Information.

3.1.1. **Mechanism to Authenticate Electronic Protected Health Information**

(164.312(c)(2)) (addressable)– implement electronic mechanisms to corroborate that ePHI has not been altered or destroyed in an unauthorized manner.

4. **Procedure**

4.1. **Mechanism to Authenticate Electronic Protected Health Information**

4.1.1. Electronic mechanisms used to protect the integrity of ePHI contained on HIPAA Systems must ensure that the value and state of the ePHI is maintained, and it is protected from unauthorized modification and destruction. Such mechanisms must also be capable of detecting unauthorized access, alteration, or destruction of ePHI. Such mechanisms might include: system memory, hard drives, and other data storage devices with error-detection capabilities, file and data checksums, digital signatures, and encryption.