HIPAA Person or Entity Authentication

Authority: Chancellor

History:

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1. Purpose

1.1. This policy reflects East Carolina University’s commitment to ensure that all persons or entities seeking access to the university’s ePHI are appropriately authenticated before access is granted. 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. 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. Person or Entity Authentication (164.312(d)) – implement procedures to verify that a person or entity seeking access to ePHI is the one claimed. The Person or Entity Authentication standard does not have any regulatory specifications, but like all standards must be implemented.

4. Procedure

4.1. Person or Entity Authentication

4.1.1. Health Care Components must authenticate all persons or entities seeking access to the University’s ePHI before access is granted. Authentication may include, but is not limited to: user name and password, biometrics, challenge and response mechanisms, and secure identification cards.